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OBSERVATIONS
ON
THE STATE OF IRELAND,

Principally directed to its

AGRICULTURE
AND
RURAL POPULATION;

IN
A SERIES OF LETTERS,

WRITTEN ON A TOUR THROUGH THAT COUNTRY.

BY J. C. CURWEN, Esq. M.P.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

—◆—
VOL. I.
—◆—

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PREFACE.

THE unfavorable prepossessions I had early imbibed, and the erroneous estimates I had formed of the disposition of the people and of the resources of Ireland, previous to my visiting that country, induced, on my return, a strong inclination to submit to the consideration of the public the daily journal I had transmitted for the amusement of my own fire side. But being at that juncture unexpectedly called on to resume my former seat in Parliament, my mind became directed to other objects; the wish I had entertained almost forgotten; and, possibly, it might never have recurred, had I not been led in the last Session to offer a comparative statement between the laboring

classes of the two countries. The view I then took of their respective conditions appeared so questionable to many individuals, that it revived my former desire to speak of Ireland and its inhabitants as I had found them. At this moment I am further induced to give my observations publicity, under an impression that, in the discussions now likely to take place on the *Poor Laws*, it may not be unimportant to call the public attention to this established fact, that the Irish peasantry depending solely on themselves, and possessing the necessaries of life in a much less proportion than falls to the share of those numerous parties who receive parish relief in England, are, in point of happiness, vastly their superiors. The cause of this is evident: their independency of mind supports them under all their privations, and gives them the full power of enjoying the social affections, which the great moralist and philosopher Dr. Paley considers the primary source of human happiness.

I am aware, that the want of incident and anecdote with which the following diary is chargeable, will be considered as objectionable by those who read purely for amusement; but to that class of readers who compassionate the unmerited sufferings of mankind, who may be desirous of ascertaining the true character and condition of so large a portion of British population, who may be not less desirous of becoming acquainted with their present miserable existence, than feelingly alive and anxiously solicitous for their relief; it is possible the following pages may not be uninteresting. The means for accomplishing so desirable an end are not easily devised; yet I would fain hope that every information, however trifling, which may tend to a correct knowledge of the present wretched condition of the people, and the extreme natural fertility of the soil, may prove an excitement to the benevolent and patriotic, and dispose them to consider that

both are entitled to their most serious attention.

The transitory view I was enabled to take can only be regarded as furnishing a hasty sketch of either, and is liable to the correction of the better informed: yet, I trust, it may be sufficient to produce on the minds of others the important conviction established in my own, that nothing can so effectually promote the moral and political improvement of Ireland, and so essentially serve the first and best interests of both countries, as a cordial co-operation and union of sentiment.

In venturing to offer my cursory observations to public view, I have been actuated by no motive save that of an earnest desire to awaken the consideration of England to the beneficial effects, which, on an improved state of its internal policy, would result to both countries, and on a conviction that a principal part of the existing prejudices against Ireland have their

foundation in an ignorance of the true character of the people, and the abundant resources of that luxuriantly fertile, yet ill-fated country.

As the contents of the Acre in Ireland materially differ from those of England and Scotland, I have subjoined Tables by which the relative value of English, Scotch, and Irish acres, in the currency of Great Britain and that of Ireland—as also of the weight of crops produced on each, ascertained by that of a single square yard, may be seen at one view.

TABLE I.

If the rent of 10 square Yards be	The English Acre contain- ing 4840 sqr. Yards, will amount to	The Scotch Acre contain- ing 6150 sqr. Yards, will amount to	The Irish Acre contain- ing 7840 sqr. Yards, will amount to	The Irish Acre contain- ing 7840 sq. Yds. in Irish money.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
One farthing,	0 10 1	0 12 9	0 16 3	0 17 7½
Two farthings,	1 0 2	1 5 6	1 12 6	1 15 2½
Three farthings,	1 10 3	1 18 3	2 8 9	2 12 9½
One penny,	2 0 4	2 11 0	3 5 0	3 10 5
Five farthings,	2 10 5	3 3 9	4 1 3	4 8 0½
Six farthings,	3 0 6	3 16 6	4 17 6	5 5 7½
Seven farthings,	3 10 7	4 9 3	5 13 9	6 3 2½
Two pence,	4 0 8	5 2 0	6 10 0	7 0 10

The acre, unless where it is otherwise specified, is to be considered of Irish measure, and the rent of Irish currency; the Cunningham is the Scotch acre.

TABLE II.

The Crop produced on one square Yard weigh- ing	On the English Acre containing 4840 square Yards, there will be	On the Scotch Acre containing 6150 square Yards, there will be	On the Irish Acre containing 7840 square Yards, there will be
<i>lbs.</i>	<i>tons. cwt. st. lbs.</i>	<i>tons. cwt. st. lbs.</i>	<i>tons. cwt. st. lbs.</i>
1	2 3 1 10	2 14 7 4	3 10 0 0
2	4 6 3 6	5 9 6 8	7 0 0 0
3	6 9 5 2	8 4 5 12	10 10 0 0
4	8 12 6 12	10 19 5 2	14 0 0 0
5	10 16 0 8	13 14 4 6	17 10 0 0
6	12 19 2 4	16 9 3 10	21 0 0 0
7	15 2 4 0	19 4 3 0	25 10 0 0
8	17 5 5 10	21 19 2 4	28 0 0 0
9	19 5 7 6	24 14 1 8	31 10 0 0
10	21 8 1 2	27 9 0 12	35 0 0 0
11	23 12 2 12	30 4 0 2	38 10 0 0
12	25 15 4 8	32 18 7 6	42 0 0 0
13	28 18 6 4	35 13 6 10	45 10 0 0
14	30 15 0 0	38 8 6 0	49 0 0 0

Should a square yard of turnips, potatoes, &c. weigh one pound or more, the weight of the crop per acre in English, Scottish, and Irish measure will be found in the corresponding line of the weight so ascertained.

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ERRATA.

VOL. I.

Page 71, line 6, *for* swath *read* swarth.

— 86, line 9 from bottom, *for* Marquis of Townshend's *read* Marquis Townshend's.

— 182, last line, *for* the *read* an.

— 264, in head-line, dele *u* in spirituous.

VOL. II.

Page 138, line 17, *for* ten pounds per acre *read* ten pounds per Irish acre.

LETTERS

ON

IRELAND.

LETTER I.

Wigton, August 11, 1819.

EMANCIPATED from the conflict of political interests, my mind resumed with increased energy its farming pursuits, and other domestic concerns. The change was truly great, yet I have never for a single moment regretted my retirement from parliament. While I look to the future for recompense in the tranquil enjoyment of home, the past cannot be regarded without lamenting the time—the unavailing mortifications, and unprofitable expense, which have been attendant on eight-and-twenty years of public life.

Led on by self-delusion, and the hope of doing good, like many others, I estimated my labours by what I conceived them to be worth—

not by the appreciation of others. In retiring from the task of ~~sedulously~~ discharging my duty in attending to the conduct of national concerns, it is no small consolation to escape even the imputation of having participated in the corruptions of the times, and to feel conscious of not having contributed to the adoption of those measures, which for so many years have inundated Europe with torrents of affliction and oceans of blood.

Unfortunate, and greatly to be pitied, is that individual who takes, in the management of his own affairs, so little interest as to make him feel the weight of time, and to be indifferent to all the passing events of life, excepting those in which the senses are immediately engaged.

The ardency, nay enthusiasm, with which my mind has habitually pursued the objects of its occupation, I shall never lament; for though it may have hurried me, on some occasions, into unintentional error, it has enabled me to follow the plough over the surface, or explore the hidden strata beneath it, with the same zeal and constancy, with which I embarked in politics, or pursued the sports of the field.

• Vanity, that universal all-powerful stimulus,

enters largely into the general concerns of public life; and though it be of a less exceptional description, it is found as an attendant in a life of retirement. Here, in the rational hope that life will not pass uselessly away, an animation is given to its pursuits which keeps the mind on the alert, and prevents that satiety which it is more than probable would be consequent on the perpetual daily recurrence of the same objects.

Domesticated, I had almost said rusticated, as I have been for such a length of time—pursuing the same circle without a wish to diverge or extend it, a more powerful influence than mere inclination was requisite to impel the abandonment of home and all its happinesses. This you had the goodness to supply; and though I am truly sensible of the motives which influence your kind desire, that I should consult my health by a temporary relaxation from my domestic labours, yet it is with great reluctance I yield to the additional persuasion on your mind (as a further incitement to the journey) that my time and observations may not be employed altogether unprofitably to the interesting country I am about to visit.

The contrast, on exchanging objects of re-

gard and interest for those of curiosity, you will allow to be great. It will require some effort, at least for a time, to divert my thoughts from home, and the happy current of their accustomed channel.

I regret that I have not employed more of my leisure on the topography and locality of Ireland. I perceive I am on a voyage of discovery, and, like a mariner without a compass, at a loss how to steer my course. It is unlucky, too, that I cannot determine on the route we shall take, because it precludes the gratification of receiving tidings from you, at least for some days.

It is really a national reproach to us to be thus generally ignorant as we are, of so important a part of the empire. Every calumny has thus not only been credited, but exaggerated; every oppression not only tolerated, but promoted. By false and unjust estimates has the general character of this valuable people been computed and traduced. I cannot assert that even my own mind is wholly free from all unfavourable impressions. I will however endeavour to be candid, and, with the feeling of an honest juror, my verdict shall always be governed by the evidence offered to the conviction of my senses.

The state of existence of so large a portion of mankind ought not—cannot be viewed with indifference; and when I may have subdued the solicitude I now feel for objects left behind, no new incident, however trifling, will fail to awaken and interest my attention. It is certainly possible to pass through a country, and to take no notice of it; the field I am about to explore is extensive—wonderfully diversified; and, to a mind not actually asleep, it cannot avoid awakening abundant reflection.

If self-interest alone were to be the criterion by which to set a value on any spot, the people of Cumberland should consider themselves as identified with Ireland; for the prosperity of the latter country is the true barometer of our own.

My attention will be particularly directed to the cottiers or cabin-holders. Circumstances, for many years, have contributed to afford me a more extensive acquaintance with the rural working classes than falls to the lot of most general observers. My constant study—my earnest endeavours, have been exerted to meliorate their condition by offering to their consideration and acceptance, such measures as appeared to be best calculated to ensure an aug-

mentation of comfort, with independence of character. If I have not succeeded to the utmost of my wishes, I trust I have not wholly failed.

What an inexpressible pleasure should I partake—how lasting would be the gratification, should any suggestion of mine be the fortunate means of conferring on the Irish peasant the luxury of one comfort, or in any way to improve the abject state of this generous, brave, and feeling people!

I offended, or at least afforded a pretence for offence, to some of the good citizens of Carlisle, and an excuse for their conduct towards me, by the active part which I had taken in defeating a bill levelled against this unprotected people. This bill furnished overseers of the poor in England with powers to remove all Irish persons who might be deemed likely to become chargeable to the parishes in which they resided. No length of time, no period of a laborious life, not even fidelity irreproachable, were sufficient to entitle these poor wretches to maintenance from those in whose services, and for whose benefit, their best days had been spent. In consequence of the assistance I gave in strangling this babe of wanton barbarity, I was

charged with having sacrificed the interests of my constituents to the mercenary hope of extending the sale of my coal from Workington, where Irish settlers are in great abundance. If I have any acquaintance with my own heart it is incapable of entertaining such a sentiment; and I would indignantly have spurned a seat in parliament on the condition of supporting a measure so revolting to every feeling of humanity.

The prospect of visiting a country, which, although almost within our view, and daily in our contemplation, is as little known to me, comparatively speaking, as if it were an island in the remotest part of the globe, necessarily produces a high degree of interest. The effects of this kind of interest on different persons are frequently very opposite. In some it would contribute to magnify all objects beyond their due proportions—in others, to contract and reduce them below their real standard. How my mind may be operated on, time alone will develope. I mean as far as possible to forget all former traces—all reports and tales of others, and to form my opinions by a candid and liberal examination of whatever may be presented for the exercise of my judgment.

To dare to be perfectly sincere is to hazard being very indiscreet.

The pursuit of amusement alone could not have tempted me, at this interesting season, to quit all my agricultural pursuits. I am not, however, willing to be supposed so wholly devoted to rural oeconomics as to become insensible to the beauties of nature or the perfection of art—to the prosperity or indigence—the happiness or wretchedness, of so large a portion of our fellow-creatures suffering under the peculiar circumstances which have so long afflicted the lower orders in Ireland. I expect to derive much gratification from the contemplation of the two former, much information, though little satisfaction, from an examination into the latter.

Accustomed as I have been to have my time and attention directed to useful pursuits, I should be quite out of my element on a tour exclusively devoted to pleasurable objects. No time would I not dedicate—no labour would I not cheerfully endure, in promoting rational improvements, or in removing established prejudices, injurious to any class of society; but more especially to a community in which there are to be found so few competent to advocate the cause of their misery in a court of humanity.

You have here an unvarnished prospectus of my future correspondence. A daily journal of such matters does not, I fear, promise you much

amusement, though it will serve to associate our minds for an hour in each day, by a conference of the heart. You will determine how far you may feel disposed to sacrifice so much time and patience as the perusal of such a diary may demand. There are but few, a happy enviable few, who, like yourself, see all things through a correct medium : confident of this, I shall cheerfully submit to your deliberate, your temperate animadversions on my natural enthusiasm, and rely on your affectionate friendship for veiling the inaccuracy of my judgment. Herein, I feel conscious, I may fail ; but it is impossible I should do so, in my regard, respect, and esteem, and my earnest desire to contribute to your entertainment.

The trivial mortifications inseparable from the absence of those comforts and accommodations which pervade countries more frequently visited, will neither affect my companion nor myself. We have made up our minds to take " things as they are, not as they ought to be," and on all occasions to pity and smile, rather than reprove and be vexed.

Short as the interval is which has elapsed since I bade you farewell, it appears to me long when I retrace the various reflections to which

this excursion has given birth. The importance I seem to attach to a journey of a few hundred miles, is a weakness you will excuse. I cannot forbear indulging in it, as if it were highly consequential. Great and little are merely comparative; and where the heart is concerned, the less often becomes the greater consideration.

To a being who, like myself, has been spell-bound, and who for the last twelve months has scarcely taken a single day's relaxation from his farm; the difficulties attendant on this journey appear to be many—the inducements to undertake it few. In my estimation they will be sufficient, if one among the number afford you the daily converse of an hour, without abstracting your attention unprofitably from objects of more immediate interest.

Concluding epistolary sentiments frequently excite a glow of feeling, under an idea that the performer, having no longer a part to act, subscribed with sincerity. However questionable this may be in most instances, I dare claim the merit with you, of having no latent purposes to serve, nothing on earth to tempt the sacrifice of that delightful truth, of assuring you I shall ever remain yours,

J. C. C.

LETTER II.

Annan, August 12, 1813.

MY engagement to furnish you with a diary of passing events reminds me of the habit of past times. For years my head never reached its pillow, without having previously registered the transactions of the day, with observations on what and on whom I had seen. I was led to make these sketches by the advice of my valued friend, the late Lord Kames, who in recommending the practice, observed, "that our best and surest road to knowledge was by profiting from the labours of others, and making their experience our own." Those who are averse to study should try to learn, by taking notes of what is passing before their eyes, and thus acquiring by habit the art of thinking. Many, no doubt, would sicken at the idea of imposing such a task upon themselves; but as we are all the children of habit, the attempt once made, and persevered in for a short time, would soon become a custom more irksome to omit, than it was difficult to commence.

The most extraordinary instance of the force of habit I ever witnessed was about forty years ago, on a visit to the Isle of Man. On stopping at the Calf of Man, a small islet on its southwestern extremity, I found that the warrener's cot, the only human abode on the islet, was kept by his sister. For several months in the year, these two persons were completely isolated; and never even heard the sound of a third human voice, unless when the intervals of the raging storm conveyed the unavailing cries of the shipwrecked mariner. To support such an existence seemed to require, in a rational being, nerves of supernatural strength, or the influence of habit from the earliest period of life. Curious to ascertain how she could endure so desolate a life and such complete banishment from all human intercourse, I inquired "if she were not very miserable—if she had always been accustomed to dwell in that dreary abode?" To the first I was answered in the negative; to the last, my surprise was converted into perfect astonishment, when I understood that, in the outset of her life, she had passed six and twenty years in St. James's-street. This communication excited still more my wonder, and made what I then saw and heard incomprehensible. Time, however, has since disclosed truths, of which I had then no suspicion.

I have frequently regretted, that in consequence of a severe indisposition, some years ago, I was induced to commit to the flames a journal, containing minutes on the most prominent characters and striking circumstances which came under my observation, in those parts of the continent which I visited. Some of the personages I had an opportunity of then noticing, have since performed very conspicuous parts in the calamitous events of the last twenty years. But I thought it right to do so. I could not feel justified in the possible exposure of opinions, registered in the self-confidence of being correct, though probably founded on ex-parte evidence, or testimony of less valid authenticity. The first impression, in such cases, becomes the final one; without examination, restraint, or responsibility. Under these circumstances, lest I should cease to retain the safe custody of my lucubrations, I determined to destroy them, that the persuasions of my mind, thus incautiously formed without proof, and recorded without discrimination, should not rise in judgment against the unoffending or the innocent; or become the traitorous instruments of revenge or wrong doing, in the hands of unprincipled persons, who might avail themselves of them by accident or stratagem. A record of conversations is scarcely allowable even for in-

dividual reference ; but when it is done with a view to disclosure on improper occasions, to serve uncharitable purposes, it is highly criminal and destructive of all confidence—the basis of social intercourse. What can be so base as to partake of hospitalities, only to betray the weaknesses discoverable in the founder of the feast ?

Publications of private correspondence and conversations have become by far too frequent, and have had the effect of making the more estimable characters in foreign states extremely cautious how they repose confidence in their literary or personal communications with the English, being too justly apprehensive of meeting garbled extracts, or great amplifications, conveying very opposite ideas to their real sentiments.

I honestly protest that I consider this retail trade, most commonly of detraction, so mean a vocation, that should I daily have opportunities of giving consequence to communications, or weight to my opinions, by means of authorities derived from others, I must, on principle, decline availing myself of such assistance, as every thing I may advance must rest on my own individual credit ; beyond which I do not feel that I can claim any pretensions.

We had fixed on crossing the Solway-Firth at Bowness, as it was more pleasant to avoid Carlisle than to pass through that city. A change of sentiments in one party, industriously and daily urged, is capable of producing the like effect on the other. The mistake, one day or other, may be discovered and corrected; but till that is done, it can be as little agreeable to those good folks as to me, to have further intercourse.

The tide did not permit our landing on the other side till late in the afternoon: this gave us an opportunity of attending to the various operations carrying on in the neighbourhood of Wigton. The wastes which surround the town, now enclosing, are in extent little short of six thousand acres. A few months will exhibit a great portion of these under cultivation. How delightful to behold such an extensive tract, which hitherto has been nearly unproductive of human sustenance, furnishing employment to the industrious, and giving food to many hundred families. Nor are these improvements to be regarded through the medium of the substantial benefit only which they will produce; for they will highly contribute here, as in most other instances, to the beauty and luxuriant appearance of the country. Within the last ten years, not

less than two hundred thousand acres in the county of Cumberland have been brought, or are now bringing, into cultivation.

The lands surrounding the town of Wigton are in general of good quality. The system of husbandry pursued on Mr. Clarke's estate, by his tenant Mr. Irwin, who is an admirable farmer, is superior to most in the neighbourhood. That an example of such husbandry should be in daily practice and exhibition, without producing a due effect on those who are hourly witnessing it, is to me not less surprising than unaccountable.

When a nobleman or gentleman thinks proper to prefer the laudable expenditure of his wealth in endeavouring to improve the verdant surface of his estate at home, instead of sacrificing it irrationally to the fineness of the turf at Newmarket, doubts may indeed arise in the minds of others, whether profitable returns have been sufficiently consulted. It would certainly be advisable that improvements of this description, especially when meditated on a large scale, should not be undertaken but in contemplation of resulting profits, of an immediate or remote nature, and of setting an example worthy of imitation. Nothing is more seductive or allur-

ing than rural improvements, whether of a permanent nature, as applicable to patrimonial property; or those of a less stable kind, as regard the best mode of annual cultivation and the treatment of stock. In both cases, unless a rigid persevering economy is steadily pursued, the beneficial effects may be very much questioned; while the example may, by possibility, be attended with injurious consequences. Vanity, frequently the promoter, may supply a sufficient reward to the proprietor, by the admiration which his fortune, taste, and industry, may command; and he is entitled also to the gratitude of the neighbourhood by rendering the expenditure of his income contributory to the comfort and the prosperity of his dependants. But his farming tenants must look to more substantial returns than those which admiration, however justly bestowed, may furnish; and Mr. Irwin's good sense will teach, that neither the influence of fashionable theoretical agriculturists, nor even the admiration of the most able judges, are sufficient to induce experiments of a costly nature, on an extensive scale, before they are justified by repeated trials on a contracted one, and found to be practically deserving of adoption. The rents given for lands within half a mile of the town are very high, yet are these grounds in a most wretched

condition. It is wonderful, that, with the husbandry of Mr. Irwin before their eyes, these occupiers should remain so completely blind to their own interest.

The road to Bowness, where we shall leave behind us the shore of Cumberland, passes Standing Stone, the former residence of relations and friends. Here in early days very many of my hours passed, not less rapidly than happily, away. The respect I feel for its former inhabitants, creates a prepossession, in favour of every object which connects itself with the memory of those, so much entitled to my regard.

Near the river Wimpole is a large tract of morass. Mr. King has been extensively engaged in the improvement of lands of this description. In the opinion of the neighbourhood the crops have disappointed his expectation. A heavy rain prevented a survey of his operations while we were detained at Bowness. The distance from this place is about two miles to the opposite shore, across a flat sand, fordable at low water. The current generally descends in two channels, but it is sometimes confined to one, when it becomes deep, and is frequently dangerous. We thought ourselves

fortunate in having some carts in our company on crossing the ford ; as a tandem is not the safest or the best fitted equipage for a ford. When in the depth of about three or four feet our leader took fright, and, coming short round, the chance of our being overturned was considerable ; and we narrowly escaped an involuntary sea-bath. This incident well dressed, and introduced in a perilous form, would be sufficient to furnish a long digression of personal alarm and impending danger. We, however, had the good fortune to escape free from all harm, at the expense of a wet jacket to the guide.

The sun was about setting as we reached the Scottish shore. Much of picturesque beauty, I am persuaded, is dependant on the medium through which the prospect is beheld. I have often had to regret our murky atmosphere when attending strangers over the lakes ; for when the cheering presence of the sun has been denied to the country for some time, the change which this gloomy weather produces has frequently raised a doubt in my mind, whether the scenery before me was, really and in truth, endowed with all the fascination I was desirous it should inspire. This serves to explain, in some measure, the contrariety of opinions and

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feelings on the scenery of the lakes, and the dissimilar degrees of estimation in which it is held by different admirers, who, very possibly, might concur, could all see the same prospect at the same time, and through the same medium.

The evening was fine and serene, and the moment of our landing in Dumfriesshire was favourable to the impressions I had already received.

I must candidly confess, that my local partialities suffered by a comparison of our own, with the opposite side of the Frith. The superiority cannot be denied, nor can my unqualified approbation be withheld in favour of Scotland. The luxuriance of the crops of grain, the culture of the turnips, and the cleanness of the fallows, as we passed along towards Annan, merited and received my warmest commendations; but as the husbandry of this county is confessedly far behind that of the Lothians, the reflection of being surpassed by those who have yet so much to learn, was truly mortifying.

It would be not less a curious than interesting investigation, to trace whence arise the various peculiarities, identifying national character, as

visibly as the features of the countenance do the individuals. Should their growth be calculated by their decay, the result would refer us to very remote periods. More than a century has passed since the union of the two countries, governed by nearly the same laws—speaking dialects of the same language—the religious institutions and persuasions not materially different—separated by a stream only, which is no bar to intercourse—intermarrying also with each other; and yet are the manners and appearance as completely different, as if the people of the two countries had never visited, or had knowledge of each other. This peculiarity is even more striking in the principality of Wales, than in Scotland. In the highly cultivated and populous county of Glamorgan, in Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, &c. there are at this day distinct colonies of people inhabiting each side of a river; nay, even a small rivulet will sometimes keep them apart. Among these, on the one side, the English language is not understood; on the other, the Welsh is not spoken. Though the common occurrences of life in the way of traffic meet no impediments, by the adoption of the Welsh language in the English establishments—though feuds or animosities were never known to exist; yet time immemorial no intermarriage has taken place:

and many other peculiarities are observable among them, as strictly and distinctly and exclusively belonging to each only.

Annan has one regular well-built street. There appeared here to be an absence of that bustle of business, which always accompanies profitable employment, and conveys an idea of a wealthy community.

The times have made politicians in all ranks of the people. An avidity for public news prevails every where. Not a town or scarcely a village, that has not its reading room, where the daily papers in some, and the periodical publications in all, are to be found. Strangers are generally made welcome to a draught from these fountains whence the concerns of all the world are made to flow. To those travelling with their own horses these resources are particularly agreeable for the hour, which otherwise would be heavily passed at the inn.

At five in the morning to-morrow we purpose to leave Annan. Early starting is the only way to get pleasantly forward. A stage, and sometimes two, before breakfast, gives an opportunity for great refreshments to one's horses, and prevents the day's-work becoming

heavy towards its conclusion. Those who adopt this mode of travelling should always consider their own accommodation as a secondary object. I never cease writing till I am compelled, and resign the pen with regret; for while I write I cease to feel I am absent.—My next will be from Dumfries: till then adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER III.

Dumfries, Aug. 13, 1813.

AN interesting account is given by Morrison, in his Itinerary, published in 1596, of the mode of travelling in Scotland. "In Scotland," says he, "a horse may be hired for two-pence the first day, and eight-pence the day until he be brought home; and the horse letters used to send a footman to bring back the horse. They have no such inns as are in England, but in all places some houses are known where passengers may have meat and lodging, but they have no arms or signs hung out; and for the horses they are commonly set up in stables in some lane, not in the same house where the passenger lies; and if any one is acquainted with a townsman will go freely to his house, for most of them will entertain a stranger for his money. A horseman shall pay, of oates and straw, for hay is scarce in those parts, some eight-pence, day and night, and he shall pay no less in summer for grasse, whereof they have no great store. Himself, at a common table, shall pay six-pence for his supper or dinner, and shall have

his bed free; and if he will eat alone in his chamber, he may have meat at a reasonable rate. Some twenty or thirty years ago the first use of coaches came into Scotland, yet they are rare even at Edinburgh at this day. Since the kingdoms of England and Scotland are united, many Scots by the King's favour have been promoted both in dignities and estate, and the use of coaches became more frequent, yet nothing so common as in England. But the use of horse litters hath been very ancient in Scotland for sick men and women of quality."

In those days travellers, no doubt, like ourselves, depended on their own energies, and waited not for chamber-maids to call them—waiters to attend them—and ostlers to make ready their carriages; it was fortunate for us that our motions depended not on any of these auxiliaries, for whilst they were yet indulging in sleep we departed at our appointed time, leaving the remuneration of our host to some future adjustment. Our rising anticipated that of the sun. It surely cannot be denied that his glorious diurnal re-appearance is the most interesting moment of rational existence. Gratitude and delight seem imprinted on the face of nature, and appear to be felt and shared by man. The smile of morning is calculated to

lighten the sorrow of the heaviest heart. How richly does the surrounding scenery, and the unfolding day, repay the early riser. Can any one who has felt what the rising sun inspires, and reflects on the vast, the immeasurable good which his presence bestows, be either surprised or offended at those untaught human beings who, in grateful adoration, deify and idolize the sun?

Two miles on the road to Dumfries I was gratified by the appearance of Mr. Church's farm at Hitchell. The crops were luxuriant, among which was a weighty one of turnips raised from ashes. The wheat was ready for harvesting, the carrots were promising, the fences good, and the general management justifies the reputation Mr. Church has obtained of being an excellent farmer. Mr. Wallace, whose farm is near Kirkudbright, received a cup from the Highland Society for raising turnips with a dressing of burnt clay. He is of opinion that spreading these ashes over the surface is as good a practice as depositing them under it: he used only thirty single horse cart-loads per acre; I should not be disposed to hazard a less quantity than fifty.

Much pains are bestowed on beautifying the

exterior of the cottages with white-washing. It certainly gives them a cleanly appearance without, which naturally induces an idea of comfort within: a transient glance, however, which I now and then caught of the interior of these dwellings, gave me reason to apprehend they would afford little comfort, at least, to an English cottager, who could deny himself the luxury of living in constant smoke.

If cleanliness be a criterion, among others, by which the judgment may be directed as to the degree of civilization to which a people may have attained; it is much to be feared that neither the personal appearance of individuals, nor the domestic arrangements of Scottish families of the lower classes, would entitle them to a distinguished place in the scale of civilization.

Increased attention to personal comforts is among the first efforts towards civilization—necessity seems the only apology for the neglect of indispensable cleanliness. The inhabitants of North Britain have not this excuse. It is a singular incongruity that a nation so pre-eminent for acquired knowledge and orderly conduct should appear to be wanting in those feelings which teach the appreciation of cleanliness. The contrast between the laborers on the op-

posite side of the Frith is quite astonishing. I have no clue by which the reasoning of each, on this subject, would tend to an illustration.

To attempt a solution of this difficulty, which I have never yet heard satisfactorily explained, I conceive we must have reference to consequences arising out of the habits of former times, when in Scotland and Ireland the property was exclusively vested in the lords of the soil, with few distinctions in the orders of society; industry augmented the grandeur and resources of those, already opulent, whilst it afforded but a scanty pittance to those, by the sweat of whose brows the augmentation was obtained. More than one hundred years after the union of the two kingdoms, the state of the people was here but little improved.

What alterations had taken place were almost exclusively confined to the nobles and superior classes, who, in former days, maintained a state of too great distance and authority to allow such an intimate approach of their inferiors as would induce the imitation of any of their refinements.

A perpetual passage on the hardest rock will form a beaten path, while the casual footsteps

of ages will leave no perceptible impression. The recent improvements in the agriculture of Scotland had their origin within the last fifty years. Mr. Dawson, of Roxburghshire, the bold innovator, still lives to enjoy the veneration and respect, and, it is to be hoped, the gratitude also, of his countrymen.

His exertions first laid the foundation for extending to Scotland the comforts enjoyed by all classes in England; and though much has been done, much is yet to be accomplished; among which the blessing of cleanliness will doubtless be duly appreciated.

In tracing the causes which have given to the English a superiority in this habit, we must go back to the destruction of the feudal system, which eventually has produced many of the blessings we at present enjoy. From the division of property, which then ensued, originated a gradation of ranks—as industry was promoted, wealth flowed into the country, and became dispersed through the whole body politic. The congregating of wealthy individuals in villages, towns, and cities, excited emulation, and brought every advance in the acquirement of comforts under the immediate notice of numbers.

The luxuries and refinements of superiors are generally regarded with prejudice ; while those introduced by persons in the same rank of life provoke a desire to excel. Whatever advance might be made by one member of such a community was soon adopted by the rest, and hence arose what we now call fashion. This operated as a premium on improvements. Cleanliness appears to be communicated by imitation, and is not the result of any fixed or inherent principle ; nor can it be considered as the fruit or reward of knowledge, or the Scotch would, at this day, have been as distinguished for cleanliness as for their other acquirements. Wealth flowing in from the channels of productive labor, predisposed all orders in England to improvement.

The poorest laborer evinced on the Sabbath the pride he took in imitating that cleanliness he saw so much prized by his rich employer.

In confirmation of the principle to which I am disposed to attribute our taking the lead in cleanliness, I would refer to every country in which the property of the soil is exclusively vested in the higher orders. The common people in France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy are shockingly dirty ; while the Swiss are cleanly.

Industry, and the wealth derived from agriculture, have bestowed the like comfort on the Flemings. The riches acquired by trade have also had a powerful effect at home; and the comforts derivable from cleanliness in the cottage, have extended to cities and towns, in the indulgence of all the elegance and luxuries which the combined ability and contrivance of man in society can produce.

The account given of the state of Dumfriesshire sixty years ago, by the late Mr. Maxwell, of Munches, forms a striking contrast with its present flourishing condition. He states the country to have been entirely uninclosed. Few as the cattle then were, many perished from the want of provender to support them through the winter; and of those which survived, many in the spring were unable to rise without help. Thinly as the country was then peopled, they depended on England for wheaten bread. In this extreme state of poverty an inclosure was proposed, and acceded to by the proprietors. But so strange is the perversity of man, the tenants and laborers rose and demolished the fences, under an impression that the inclosure of the lands would reduce the product of human subsistence.

The inhabitants of Dumfries are now computed at ten thousand. The population of the country is probably doubled. Notwithstanding which, the food it now produces is not only sufficient for its own wants, but there is a large surplus for exportation.

This is a strong testimony of the benefit of inclosures, should there be any who entertain a doubt, at this day, to the contrary.

A few years ago an Act was obtained for improving the navigation of the Nith, from Dumfries to its junction with the Solway Frith; some progress has been made, and hopes are entertained that in time small craft will be enabled to reach the town.

A great number of French officers are here on their parole. As a celebrated foreign authoress has bestowed much pains in tracing the effect of governments on the genius of nations, it would not be less acceptable, than serviceable to the world, that so able a pen should dilate on the baneful effects of military despotism, extinguishing every moral feeling—every honorable principle, and making such a nation of slaves, the enemies to the repose of mankind.

“ It appears absolutely impossible that the people of a country so governed, can ever be, properly speaking, a military nation, least of all, if they groan under the yoke of what is called military despotism; a government the most thoroughly destructive of martial spirit.”*

Military despotism places unlimited power in the hands of a few, whilst it inspires the many with a sordid hope of participating in the plunder, likely to be obtained by a subservient obedience to every mandate calculated to augment the power of the few over the many.

This accounts for the attachment of the French military to Buonaparte, the fall of whose empire, and fall it must, will prove the destruction of their prospects. I am told, that after every discomfiture of his arms, his officers withdrew for a time from public view, and remained quietly in their lodgings.

On quitting Dumfries for Closeburn, we passed over the Nith: the bridge is much admired. Four miles from the town is Goldielee, the seat of Major Goldie, who has the reputation of being a good farmer.

* Pasley on Military Policy.

He commenced a plan for supplying Dumfries with milk, on the system pursued at the Schoone Farm, near Workington, whence he took the hint, and where it has always made a fair return. I am sorry to understand his good intentions have not succeeded.

The principal object, and greatest difficulty, is that of providing a proper and constant succession of food. The manner in which this is to be accomplished can only be discovered by practice.

Mr. Harley made a similar effort about the same time at Glasgow, and has had the satisfaction of carrying it advantageously on to a great extent.

The comfort afforded to the labouring classes by a cheap supply of milk, makes this one of the most delightful branches of farming.

A gentleman at Manchester also informs me, he has begun a dairy for the like meritorious purpose, and has every prospect of its answering the beneficial design which he has in view: had my farming never embraced any other object, I should not have thought my time and attention to it ill bestowed.

Good farming extends but a short distance from Dumfries.

Friars Close is a charming little spot. It is almost surrounded by the Nith, whose banks are finely wooded, besides which, it derives some advantages from the plantations at Dalswinton.

It gave me pleasure to see a morass of some acres in this neighbourhood preparing for the Fiorin grass (*agrostis stolonifera*), by Mr. Miller, who is the most extensive cultivator of it in Britain. I was sorry a mis-statement of my opinion on the merits of fiorin had reached him. I was a sceptic, then became a convert, but not a blind enthusiast.—Its merits have their limits. I would not apply it to valuable land; but on bog, or on elevated situations in a wet climate, or where irrigation can be resorted to, it will be highly productive.

In a luxuriant state fiorin makes excellent hay; but where it has not an opportunity of indulging in water, it grows slowly, is harsh, stunted, sapless, and poor, and of little value.

I cannot, however, dismiss this subject, without condemning the expensive method adopted

by many in planting this grass. If indeed this be necessary, fiorin can never become a general crop; and I should further do an injustice to the arable farmer, were I not to apprize him, that he may find it so dangerous an enemy on his ploughed lands, when carted out in the shape of dung, as to counterbalance most of the advantages derived from it, as food for his cattle.

I found what was wasted, by being trodden under foot in soiling, thence carried to the dung heap, and afterwards removed to the heaps of manure, where it underwent a considerable degree of fermentation, still of so imperishable a nature, as to come out in a state of vegetation. This decided me on extirpating the few acres I had cultivated.

Closeburn.—We have just reached this hospitable mansion; and finding the gentlemen gone to the moors, we have amused ourselves with looking at the improvements.

Mr. Monteith has reclaimed an extensive tract of unproductive land, and has brought it into a high state of cultivation; almost every tree, and every hedge, are of his planting. He has given a new character to the face of the

country. Thirty years ago there were few parts of Scotland in a wilder state.

What can be more praiseworthy in any individual, or more gratifying to the observer of his successful exertions? My warmest admiration is called forth in the contemplation of the general good which it produces. Possibly it may not be in human nature greatly to approve success in pursuits similar to our own, without feeling some small portion of envy.

To morrow we explore the higher regions, from which I expect to get a peep at the friends I have left. You would do me injustice were you to suppose that out of sight could, by any possibility with me, be out of mind.

J. C. C.

LETTER IV.

Closeburn, August 14, 1813.

THE first object of our attention this morning was a considerable tract of reclaimed bog, which lies directly below the house. It may admit of a question, whether in point of profit, or of beauty, this improvement is most to be commended. On the verge of the morass the castle of Closeburn presents itself in a perfect state, affording a very complete specimen of border policy and protection in former times. The walls are thick, with small apertures, or loop-holes—the rooms lofty and dark. Light or prospect was little regarded, security being the only object in the construction of these mansions for man and beast. The basement story, which is arched, was appropriated to the reception of their own cattle, and after successful inroads, to those of their English neighbours.

The first story, or suite of apartments, was reserved for the lord; the second for his retainers. The difficulty of approaching formed no inconsiderable security to the strength of the

castle, whose elevated turrets afforded a commanding and extensive view of the surrounding country. No enemy could approach it in the day time, without the garrison having sufficient warning. Vigilance, incessant vigilance, could alone prevent surprise; to induce which, a favourite maxim became the border motto, and has been handed down to posterity: "If they come, they come not; If they come not, they come."

The perpetual state of predatory warfare on the borders of the two countries was at once destructive of industry and moral obligation. To decide which were the greatest thieves would be difficult. The feudal trade was most profitable to the Scotch, because the English had the most to lose.

It must be confessed, no district of the British empire has profited so much by political changes, as that which may be included under the denomination of the borders. And although the habits of the people yet bear strong marks of the original peculiarities of each, yet are their manners sufficiently assimilated to ensure a mutual kindly intercourse of good offices, and reciprocity of interests, which increase the happiness and prosperity of both.

A very considerable lime-work is carried on by Mr. Monteith, within a mile of the house; this was the second object of our attention. The Kilns are of an improved construction, the top being covered in by a cast iron top, with folding doors, by which the draft is capable of being increased or lessened at pleasure. At the bottom is a contrivance for separating the ashes from the lime, which furnish a great source of manure to the proprietor, and may be considered as so much actual gain. A road has been constructed from the kilns through Mr. Monteith's grounds, nearly to the top of the adjacent mountain. Many hundred acres, which a few years since were covered only with heath, have been brought into cultivation by means of lime, and are now clothed with luxuriant crops of grain. The more elevated lands have been reclaimed by paring, burning, ploughing, and then sowing down with grass seeds. The *holcus lanatus* thrives prodigiously; it is suffered to shed its seed the first year, sheep not being turned into it until about Christmas. The second year it is cut for hay, and afterwards fed again with sheep. The third year it is grazed with cattle. Wherever the surface is of a friable nature, and of a peaty description, it would be advisable to avoid ploughing. Harrowing in the seeds with the lime and ashes would, in my opinion, be a

better practice. The cattle were in a very thriving condition on one of the pastures of the first year's feeding. It will, however, be some years before it will bear their weight in the winter, as the surface is tender, and would be easily poached. Were the use of the plough more dispensed with, the surface, by gentle treading, would soon become consolidated. The former value of these lands, as a sheep pasture, was not two shillings and sixpence per acre; they are now well worth eight times that rent. The cost of reclaiming, after deducting the second year's crop of hay, will not exceed four pounds per acre. The security afforded by good fences contributes greatly to the value, and enhances the rents of the fields; above twenty miles of stone walls have been erected for this purpose. I think this is one of the most judicious improvements in mountain husbandry that I have yet seen. The estate is principally let to cattle-jobbers, who take it from year to year, and whose rents have been advanced from two to four pounds per annum. Were I at liberty to recommend an alteration, it would be an industrious thriving tenantry, in the place of these cattle speculators. A cattle-jobber depends on his skill in stock, and the knowledge he has, or thinks he has, in the price of future markets; on this ability he depends for his living profit,

and of course the farm, on which his cattle depasture, is of no consequence to him, provided it be secure, and worth the rent he contracts to pay for the month, the season, or the year.

The farm which is conducted under Mr. Monteith's own direction is under a good system of management. The farming buildings are conveniently disposed, and judiciously constructed. Soiling is extensively practised. His horses in winter are fed with steamed potatoes, and cut straw, a practice much approved. These meritorious exertions have not only changed the appearance of Mr. Monteith's own noble property, but have inspired his neighbours with a desire to imitate and profit by his example. The advantages are so evident, that the most prejudiced of the old school could not dispute them; and I feel it as impossible to withhold my admiration, as to bestow more than is merited. I observed a simple but valuable method of hanging the field gates. The posts are of stone: that on which the gate hangs has an iron crank that passes through it, with an eye, about an inch broad, one half of which projects beyond the outer edge; this is secured by a triangular pin. If the post recede from the upright, the perpendicular is rectified by driving the pin. On our return we inspected the farms by the river. I was sorry to observe

a plantation of larch, of about forty years' growth, attacked with a disorder that seemed to have stopped the circulation of the sap, which was bursting through the trunks and branches of the trees, and seemed to threaten their complete destruction.

We paid a visit to Mr. Mundell, of Wallace Hall, the successful cultivator of Timothy grass. This grass is highly esteemed in America. The following is, in the abstract, Mr. Mundell's account of this valuable acquisition to the farmer. He accidentally noticed its green luxuriant appearance in a small spot of rich pasture, near Greenock. He procured a small quantity of the seed, by the cultivation of which he has now four fields, containing twenty acres of timothy grass, (*phleum pratense*, or meadow cat's-tail); the second year's crop yielded upwards of four tons per acre. When used as pasture, it appeared to be considerably more plentiful, and more to the taste of horses and black cattle, than ray grass, sown on the same field, at the same time. It should be sown in the spring, and if intended for permanent pasture, mixed with white clover. It will grow to the height of four feet, on good ground, but it seems to prefer a damp soil. It is well calculated for green food, may be cut twice, and

perhaps thrice in a season. When intended for hay, it should be cut at least a week before the blossoms appear. After many careful experiments and observations for nine years, Mr. Mundell is convinced of its being greatly superior to ray-grass, and possibly to any other employed in this country, either for pasture, green food, or hay. His pastures looked well, the hay was tolerable; but as to its comparative merits with other grasses I could be no judge, though I was clearly of opinion it was most suitable to moist situations.

The objects of inquiry this day have been interesting in a peculiar degree, from their being so applicable to thousands of acres in Cumberland and Westmoreland. The *holcus lanatus* would thrive well, and at considerable heights, on our mountains.

To undertake and ensure extensive rural improvements requires judgment in the choice of the subject, where a choice is afforded—in the means to be pursued best suited to the end where it is not—leisure, zeal and perseverance bordering on enthusiasm, to prosecute the enterprise;—resolution to wrestle with and despise difficulty and trouble;—temper to bear disappointments from man and things;—capital to

complete, without starving, the undertaking ;— and good accounts to evince that judicious expenses, incurred on permanent improvements to the inheritance, are at least justifiable *prodigalities*. It is certainly rare to find these qualities united ; but when such a combination does take place, as was exhibited in the late Duke of Bridgewater, the most important and beneficial consequences cannot fail to result, not only to the individual, but to the public.—Adieu. We have a long journey in contemplation for tomorrow, and, what is worse, we are pledged to an hour.

J. C. C.

LETTER V.

Merton Hall, August 15, 1813.

TO notice the trifling mischances that befall us, is but to perpetuate vexation. I omitted telling you that on our return to Closeburn last night, after dinner from home, we had a narrow escape of being overturned.

The coachman had miscalculated the strength of his head, or that of the whisky,—or both. We were nearly victims to the mistake. Great as had been our danger, yet, as it was passed, I was disposed to find an apology for what ought never to be overlooked. It costs but little to philosophize in the concerns of others !

I saw the occurrence this morning in a very different point of light ; the soporific effects of whisky on my servant detained us three hours after the time fixed for our departure. This at any time would have been a severe trial of temper ; but, circumstanced as our engagements were, it was mortifying in the extreme.

Want of punctuality implicates good sense as well as good manners. No exertion whatever could recover the time ; this robbed me, to a certain extent, of my complacency ; for though the storm was past in my mind, yet, like the ocean, the agitation there continued.

We proceeded two miles in the Sanquhar road before we turned off for Moneyhive. We came within a mile of Drumlanrig, where the Duke of Buccleugh is effecting great repairs, and making additions to the mansion. Shameful depredations, we were told, had been committed in the woods, while in the possession of the late Duke of Queensberry. Many years ago, I had the pleasure of visiting Drumlanrig, with Lord Kames. He had a great veneration for the place from a circumstance that little minds would studiously have concealed, and been desirous to bury in oblivion.

His Lordship's father had superintended the building. I have often heard Lord Kames observe that he could not boast of the wealth of his father, but that he had reason to be proud of his integrity, and the general esteem in which he was held by all good men who knew him.

Eccles, the seat of Mr. Maitland, is on the opposite bank of the Nith, and a very short distance from Drumlanrig. The fields are well cultivated, and the hedges particularly beautiful.

Nothing adds more to the embellishment of a country than good fences, which are always an indication of good husbandry; in which Mr. Maitland appears to have considerable merit.

At the distance of a few miles we passed through the valley of Tendring. The church and village are charmingly situated, and the sides of the hills luxuriantly skirted with wood.

The road passes over a hill of considerable elevation; the ascent is steep, and the road so bad as to be scarcely passable for a carriage. To those who may be likely, hereafter, to take this route, it may be a consolation to know it is at present under repair.

In all this district we observed the plough had been employed, far above the elevation which Dr. Coventry has assigned for the advantageous cultivation of corn. Six hundred feet above the level of the sea is the height above which he deems it inadvisable to sow grain.

This however, in my humble opinion, should always have reference to climate, and be regulated by the annual quantity of rain received on the hills. The present season is so peculiarly favourable, that no correct judgment can be formed of the crops in other years. Mountainous countries, it should seem, are more adapted to pasture than the plough, from the prevailing humidity; rain being a source of riches to the former, which, in superabundance, has the reverse effect on productions from lands under aration.

The high price of grain has tempted farmers to bring too great a proportion of their lands under the plough: the evil will cure itself; for if, on the return of peace, the legislature should not interdict the importation of foreign corn, the agriculture of the empire will decline more rapidly than it has advanced. The manufacturing classes, as on former occasions, will strenuously oppose any measure which may have for its object the encouragement of agriculture, at the expense of what is considered by them as their interest.

I do not mean to contend that the landed proprietors are more exempt from a bias of this description than commercial persons; because

neither may see that their general interest is the same. It is extremely desirable that food of British growth should be rendered to the consumer as cheap as by possibility it can be afforded. And it is equally important, that a remittance of forty millions sterling in ten years, or fifty-eight in twenty-one years, to foreign states, for the purchase of our subsistence, in the article of grain only, should, by wise regulations, be prevented, to avert the national ruin which must, sooner or later, be consequent on so impolitic a system.

We had a long and tedious pull to the summit of the hill we had to ascend ; very unsuitable to the impatient desire we felt for reaching Merton Hall. It was Sunday, and numbers of persons decently dressed passed us on their way to Kirk, many of whom appeared to have come from a considerable distance.

The zeal and decorum with which the sacred duties of religion are performed in Scotland are at once highly prepossessing and edifying. If an impression favourable to the national character were desirable to be made on a stranger on his first entrance into Scotland, it should be contrived on a fine Sunday morning.

To fill up the hour, we had to wait for the refreshment of our horses: after our own breakfast, at Moneyhive, I requested of our host the loan of a book. Next in his collection to the Bible, stood a large folio on heraldry. He noticed the surprise I expressed at finding such a work among his volumes; and in a tone of exultation significantly observed, that he "was a Gordon."

To what various stratagems have mankind resorted for the purpose of establishing the dominion of the few over the many! The degradation, nay extinction of human intellect, seems to have been the study of ages; the aim, and not unfrequently the end, of tyranny; the favourite, because the most effectual engine, in the hands of a secular, as well as spiritual potentate. The soldier's maxim is, "divide and conquer;" the absolute monarch's, "debase and subdue." Once brutalize the mind of man in ignorance, and he soon resigns himself, even with pride, a devoted victim to the inordinate lust of his leader. What a master-piece of military policy in the Highland chief, to share his name with his vassals, identifying the pride and prejudices of the clan with the fame and aggrandisement of their redoubtable captain.

The estimation of others is a successful stimulus to merit our own.

One good resulted—self-interest compelled the chief to treat his clan with respect ; and by gilding the chains of slavery, individual vanity rendered his followers insensible to their fetters.

The first sight we got of New Galloway produced some surprise at our elevation above it.

The art of road making is well understood in Galloway, and other parts of Scotland. In the distance of seven miles we had ascended at least five hundred feet, without an apparent pull.

The new road from Perth to Dundee, which formerly was a continued exertion over the tops of the hills, has been materially shortened by passing at the feet of them, through the Carse of Gowry, with few greater ascents than one foot in twenty. This species of engineering is highly beneficial to all countries, but especially to those the surface of which may be compared to a basket of eggs.

The luxuriance of the potatoe crops on the

top of the hill inclined me to believe this valuable root might be cultivated at a much higher elevation than would be suitable to grain. The turnips looked well, and the general culture of the fields was deserving of commendation.

The vale of New Galloway is very interesting. The principal bridge in the road was washed down some years ago; and not being re-built, we feared being delayed by crossing the Ferry, had we passed through New Galloway: this induced us to take the old road through the beautiful vale of Glenlee. About Lord Glenlee's ancient mansion, there is a great assemblage of fine timber. On quitting this charming place, our road for some miles lay over a dreary country, presenting no indication of its being inhabited. On reaching the new road, we discovered the mistake into which we had fallen, and too late became sensible that we had lost time, which, on the present occasion, was most valuable, in saving distance. Approaching New Town Stewart, the valley is contracted by the broad base of Crain Moor, whose elevated summit gives a commanding pre-eminence. When nearly approached, his rugged and time-worn sides testified the tale of ages past. The extensive plantations of Kirroughtre are beginning to exhibit indications that the labor

and expense incurred in their formation will, on a future day, be amply repaid.

Wearied with the continuance of barrenness, which for some miles had attended us, the traces of cultivation were a great relief. The labors of man are requisite to inspire social interest; his comfort, after all, is the secret spring that vibrates on the heart.

A new bridge, of a light and airy construction, is nearly completed over the Cree. Here we met a number of the towns-people, whose habiliments had an appearance as creditable as those of the same class in England. A great improvement in dress has taken place, even among the lowest classes in Scotland, in the course of the last few years.

New Town Stewart is ill built, ill paved, and to the traveller inspires but one wish—that it could be avoided.

Two miles further is the hospitable mansion whence I am now writing. Such a metamorphose has the face of the country here undergone, that those who knew it some years ago might doubt its identity. This you will easily credit, when I tell you that general sterility has been

compelled to resign his iron empire to exuberance and plenty. We were most kindly received; and our want of punctuality more easily pardoned than we deserved, by the good family who I sincerely hope did not partake of the inquietude of, yours ever,

J. C. C.

LETTER VI.

Merton Hall, August 16, 1813.

THE whole of this morning was devoted to farming : Mr. Boyd's operations offered much to interest and gratify. Good management, though always entitled to praise, is not always duly appreciated.

Great pains, great perseverance, and an inexhaustible share of well-founded hope, were necessary to commence, continue, and accomplish an undertaking, approved by few—condemned by many, whose judgment entitled them to respect ; and derided by those whose opinions were inconsequential. Those who now witness the successful results of his labors can form no adequate idea of the difficulties which he has had to encounter,—no less than one hundred acres of morass, on which no beast could travel, no esculent plant would thrive, have been reclaimed, drained, and cultivated ; and are now waving with luxuriant crops of grain.

The merits of Dr. Richardson, as an agriculturist, are not confined to his introduction of florin : Mr. Boyd has found him a powerful ally. I hope to become equally his debtor on my own farm. At his suggestion, recourse has been had here to the burning of clay, as practised in Ireland, in the vicinity of bogs, where fuel is accessible ; this resource is cheap and inexhaustible. From the ashes so produced excellent turnips are procured ; and the power of cropping extended beyond what could otherwise have been practicable. The discoverers of the new world could scarcely have felt more delight at the sight of land than I did at the effects produced by this valuable operation. I decided at once on its introduction on my own farm ; and understanding that Mr. Boyd had no further occasion for his principal operator, I engaged him, anticipating not only the important changes which it will enable me to make at home, but the improvement of thousands of acres lying barren and unproductive in our neighbourhood, from the inability of procuring lime, or other fertilizing substitutes.

Were the views of my Irish tour exclusively directed to an investigation of this practice, I should think my time profitably employed, with

58 *Reclaimed Morass producing Oats.*

a view to the advancement of agriculture in Cumberland and Westmoreland.

The green crops are here excellent, particularly that of Swedish turnip. The grain is weighty, even on the upper grounds, which heretofore yielded nothing but stones; the labor and expense of removing which are enormous.

I was amused with a defence set up by a poor Irishman, who had taken a job, but declined to proceed with it, alleging before a magistrate in his defence, "An plase your honour, when ever I remove one stone, I find two." This entitled him to another discovery, that of finding half a crown unexpectedly.

An upper morass has also been reclaimed, and is now under a crop of oats. On this description of soil I should prefer paring and burning, then sowing it down with grass seeds, and harrowing them in with lime and the ashes from the kilns.

The great desideratum on such soils is to render the surface compact, by the cultivation of grasses, for the feeding of stock.

The holcus lanatus was a thriving crop, though the oats had failed. A small spot of fiorin by the side of the morass, its most appropriate situation, had a very promising appearance, although it had suffered by the encroachment of cattle. The whole of Mr. Boyd's farm may be considered of his own creation. The arable this year consists of eighty acres of wheat, fifty of oats, seven of barley, twenty-two of turnips, and fourteen of potatoes. The number of acres which bore good crops of clover, and those under fallow, I did not ascertain. A small plot of timothy grass was reserved for seed. The cattle and horses were soiled in the yard.

The highest eulogium I can bestow falls short of what is due to the merit of such an appropriation of time and fortune as is exhibited by Mr. Boyd. Farming has certainly much to recommend it as a rational amusement; it not only occupies time agreeably, but gives to a country life a social interest in the seasons, in the general prosperity of neighbours and dependants; and furnishes, on reflection, a heart-felt satisfaction, of which sporting is not susceptible. Field sports, of every description, frequently fail to afford the promised enjoyment; and even under the most unlimited

reward of sanguine hope, leave behind them a recollection which it becomes necessary to stifle, or the self-reproach of wanton cruelty towards unoffending creatures would paralyse all pleasure, in this reflection—that, where we can inflict no pain, we can find no sport.

In addition to which, how often are these pursuits the bane of social intercourse, even among the nearest connexions and dearest friends, the creation of contention and animosity, which become inveterate, and descend a malediction to succeeding generations! Not so with farming: no pre-eminent excellence in management—no extension of improvement, call forth a desire to restrain—no inclination to undervalue—no jealousy of superior means or talent. The only sentiments which are excited are those of rendering justice to merit, by commendation without adulation; and a desire to emulate those successful examples which promise to the exertions of friends and competitors such substantial rewards.

After finishing our survey of Mr. Boyd's farm, time permitted our inspection of some others in the neighbourhood. Could I have doubted that good farming affords a better produce on bad land than what is obtained from

superior soils by indifferent management, the evidence now presented to our view would have decided the question.

A neighbouring farmer accompanied us. I inquired of him for what purpose a field which had been broken up was intended? He hesitated—at length replied, “his neighbours called it a fallow.” The painter who, questioning his own skill, deemed it prudent, that mistakes might be avoided, to write under his sign, “This is a Lion,” evinced at least candour, in suspecting that a portrait would not be recognized which bore no resemblance to the intended animal.

The fallow in question required the same liberal designation. After this we saw a number of excellent meadow grounds entirely ruined by the presence of water. The want of draining, if it rest with the landlord, is deserving of reprobation; for the yearly tenant cannot be justified to his family by the expenditure of capital on the permanent improvement of his farm, for the possible purpose of having the next year's rent increased. How impolitic and repressive of all kind of effort are yearly tenures!

I could not help regretting the want of attention in others to the manifest superiority of my friend's management. His success will not be complete until his example be generally followed. A striking instance presented itself of good and bad farming. I am persuaded, had any one consulted the person whose crops had so failed, and had proposed the practices he had himself adopted, that he would have used every endeavour to dissuade his near neighbour from them.

What he must have hoped would answer for himself, he would have had no doubt would fail in the hands of another.

However great were the gratifications of the morning, those of the evening were by no means of an inferior description. A party of the most skilful farmers in the neighbourhood were assembled at dinner. Agriculture in Scotland has arrived at its present perfection by its being pursued on scientific principles, under the direction of intelligent persons, whose education entitles them to think, and whose confidence in well-tried experiments teaches them to act for themselves, while the generality of farmers in most parts of England are bigotted

to the errors of their predecessors, and are—
from ignorance and prejudice, fearful and disinclined to abandon the over-beaten tract of mismanagement.

To-morrow we inspect some of the best farming in this district, and afterwards attend the annual show of the Wigtonshire Agricultural Society. I feel how very unreasonable it is to expect your patience should endure my prolixity. Nothing is so difficult as to know where to stop on a subject so interesting. Yet I must conclude! And though with perfect consciousness of my own exorbitance, I really have not resolution to promise amendment. I must therefore rely on your mercy and forgiveness, for I fear “I shall sin and repent—repent and sin again.” Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER VII.

Merton Hall, August 18, 1813.

SINCERITY is a disposition of the mind more valued in the abstract than regarded in its exercise. All profess it in their dealings with others, and affect it with themselves. The last half hour has been occupied in forging excuses to justify my acceptance of a compliment from the yeomanry of the district. Before I was dressed, a detachment had arrived, composed of the most respectable farmers of the country, dressed in their uniforms, to attend me on our farming inspection. As it was intended to show their approbation of my agricultural management and transactions, it could not be otherwise than gratifying to my feelings, and my sincerity conceded so much to my pride. To refuse the honour proposed would have been uncourteous, I might say ungracious: in accepting it, I hazarded being thought ostentatious. Wise people, like yourself, would have been under no difficulty. You would have declined the civility. I confess I could not practise such self-denial as to refuse a treat from strangers, which was too flattering to be unpleasant.

As we proceeded I could not help smiling at the surprise which our appearance occasioned in the countenances of the spectators.

Our first visit was to Mr. Gill on the lower Wigton road. His crops of corn were abundant—his fallows clean; and there wanted nothing but a due proportion of green crop to have given him a conspicuous place among the Lothian and Berwickshire farmers.

Our attention was next directed to the farm of Mr. Henry, jun. who has completed some very judicious and spirited improvements. His land ditching (sod or shoulder draining) has been very extensive; in the course of the last year it exceeded one thousand rods of seven yards each.

This valuable practice originated here with Mr. Boyd, and among the best farmers is now rapidly extending. We here saw a few acres of moss, which had been brought into cultivation by paring, burning, and sowing down with grass seeds without ploughing. The appearance of the surface confirmed the opinion I had previously been disposed to entertain of this method; and I was glad to see Mr. Boyd was

68 *Calcareous Earths highly beneficial.*

This farm has one very great advantage, that of possessing shell marl: a sufficient dressing of this valuable substratum will last for many years.

Beside the mechanical powers which are exerted by calcareous earths in rendering adhesive soils less tenacious, their chemical effects on arable lands are of still greater importance; for as it is found that the stalks of cabbages, and of culmiferous plants, contain on analysis about two per cent. of this earth, a due supply to soils which do not contain it is absolutely necessary; for though corn will vegetate luxuriantly in such soils, and produce an ear or pannicle, it will be found deficient in farinaceous matter at harvest, yielding nothing but chaff or husks. This is practically known to be the case on the sands of Suffolk, particularly in that wide plain lying between Woodbridge and Orford, where, in most parts of it, are found deep beds of what is there provincially called *crag*, a congeries of marine shells, and exuviae similar to the shell marl of Scotland; excepting that the particles of *crag* are all as it were case-hardened with the oxide of iron, occasioned perhaps by the percolation of the rains, through the ferruginous sands by which these beds are covered. On converting those parts

of this extensive field of sheepwalk into arable land, whence the finest samples of white peas and barley are now produced, neither these nor any other kind of corn could be obtained until the surface had been well supplied with its native crag.

Such adventitious sources of fertilizing materials within the reach of the farmer, render unnecessary the extent of green crops which a less favoured neighbour is compelled to raise as sources of manure.

To place this in a clear point of light, let it be supposed that the average produce of straw is a ton an acre—that of turnips, twenty-four tons an acre. If the produce of the latter be consumed with that of two acres of the former, sixteen tons of manure will be obtained, while the same quantity of straw only eaten by cattle would produce but six tons, and that of very inferior quality. Thus the farmer who has sufficient turnips to consume his straw makes manure in the proportion of eight to three with him who has none. Hence it follows that, where it can be accomplished, the turnip crop should bear a proportion of one-third to that of the grain; on a supposition that two parts of the straw are eaten with the turnips, and the re-

70 *Ray Grass should not be sown with Clover.*

mainder consumed in summer soiling and bedding.

In general the growth of the clovers appeared to be suppressed by the sowing amongst them an undue proportion of ray grass. The specific gravity of the two seeds is so different that it is utterly impossible that the hand of the seedsman can distribute them equally through the air. I am happy in having furnished my friend, Mr. Rennie, with a drill for sowing small seeds. Much have I profited by his admirable practices, and I rejoice in having the power of offering this single acknowledgment for the many obligations he has conferred. Mr. Merton, of Leith, has since had a similar drill sent to him. I have no doubt in a short space of time they will become generally adopted.

My Scotch neighbours may submit to owe a little to one who is so much their debtor.

Dr. Anderson, for whose knowledge and opinions I entertain great respect, was a strenuous advocate for ray grass, and certainly when sown by itself its merits will not be denied; but when grown with clover, there are, as in all other mixed crops, material objections. Why is clover or sanfoin hay preferred to that

from the best meadows? Certainly from their homogeneous quality, and their being cut at that period when the whole mass is in its fittest state to be converted into good hay. The reverse is the case on the cutting of meadow grass; the swath of which being composed of various plants, the worth of many must be sacrificed in waiting for top or bottom; some no doubt will be in full bloom when the scythe is applied, but the greater portion will have blossomed—perfected and shed their seeds. In proportion to the weight of those which have thus shed their seed to those which have not, and which is always according to the season, is meadow hay good, tolerable, indifferent, or bad, that is, of little more value than the straw of wheat, barley, or oats, equally well harvested and preserved.

The addition of ray grass I have, however, observed to assist in making the clover into hay; and where clover is intended to be cut for soiling, the ray grass is useful in preventing the cattle being so readily hoven or blown. But even these advantages are scarcely sufficient to counterbalance my objections to its mixture with clover. Ten tons per acre is the usual quantity of dung allowed for turnips or potatoes; if any remain, it is bestowed on the

bean crop. Mr. Arbuckle takes wheat from the clover lea, giving it from thirty to forty bushels of lime per acre, and is of opinion that lime, when applied hot from the kilns, is very serviceable in destroying the grub. He first ploughs the clover under very deeply, then repeats the ploughings twice so superficially as not to disturb the former surface.

The produce of this farm is estimated at forty bushels of wheat, seventy-five of oats, and sixty of beans, per Scotch acre. As the soil is naturally good, and the management very appropriate, I do not think the estimate over-rated. The horses on the farm are all soiled; and are in the highest condition. There were four iron ploughs at work; and as Mr. Arbuckle and his men approve them, it is probable they will become generally adopted.

On returning to Wigton we passed an admirable crop of turnips in a farm belonging to Mr. Henry.

The buildings erecting on a number of the Earl of Galloway's farms do great credit to his Lordship's judgment, spirit, and liberality. Without the requisite conveniences it is impossible for the farming tenant to make the requisite

manure for sustaining the soil of his lord in good condition.

I was glad to avail myself of a public opportunity of doing justice to the manifest improvements which had taken place here within the last two years; and of expressing my regret that the merits of the occupiers in this district had on my last visit been under-rated, owing to an obvious deficiency then in the culture of green crops, which I cannot but esteem as one of the fairest rules by which the judgment may be directed. It is not, however, to be so recognized in any district blessed with adventitious resources.

The heavy expense and unwearied attention to the production of green crops have been often urged against the system pursued at the Schoose Farm. I am well aware of both, and should be glad to be excused from incurring the cost, if another mode, though of more personal solicitude, could be pointed out, with reasonable expectation of making a like quantity of manure, which is always inadequate to my wants; but until that may be done, I must beg leave to persist in my present method, which possibly might be improved, could I boast the soil of

the Carse of Gourie, which is reported to grow crop after crop without manure.

This district of Scotland, which a few years ago imported grain, now exports it to a considerable amount.

The show of Galloway cattle was said to be a good one; there were of other kinds, and these met with less admiration than that to which I thought them fairly entitled.

Sir William Maxwell exhibited some very good merino lambs, in high perfection.

I have had little worthy of comment to observe on the sheep of the country; their general similitude of character made me abstain from any remarks: but as Sir William Maxwell's merinos have forced on my mind the great importance of cultivating fine woolled foreign sheep, or improving the fleeces of our own, I cannot help indulging in a few observations, which, by possibility, may have the recommendation of novelty. Those black-faced, black-legged wild animals, which abound in the Highlands, composed the principal number of those which we have seen in this district of

Scotland. The practice of smearing, laying, or tarring, is considered as indispensable for the protection of the flocks, in so elevated a country, and so wet a climate; but such is the timidity and uncontrollable impatience of these untameable animals, that from the impracticability of getting their fleeces clean by washing, previous to shearing, they fetch a very inferior price in the market. In addition to this disadvantage, which, had it been a solitary one, would probably have long since been remedied, there is another of extreme importance, which will never be corrected, until a physical investigation be made of the manner in which nature is pleased to clothe these valuable creatures. All the sheep in the southern parts of the island, be the breed what it may, are uniformly furnished with fine wool on some parts, and coarser on other parts of the body. The wool-stapler, aware of these undeviating partitions, is never disappointed by finding coarse wool where he expected to meet with fine, and *vice versa*.

He spreads the fleece before him, and proceeds to cast his divisions agreeably to the rules of his practice, the occasions of his trade, and according to the specific breed whence the fleeces had been taken. But on opening the

76. *Highland Wool capable of Stapling.*

fleece of a Highland sheep, although it be cleansed like the English fleece from all impurities, which is not easily to be effected, he is stopped in his endeavours to discriminate; for here nature offers no outline of distinction by which the coarse can be separated from the fine wool, of which the fleece is generally presumed to contain little, in short, none worth the search; and he is compelled to return it as unfit for the purposes of his art. In consequence of its being deemed wholly incapable of stapling, it is thought unworthy of further attempts, than those of dividing it into two, three, or at most four sorts; the coarser of which, more resembling hair than wool, is chopped short for making of waggon tilts, and other subordinate purposes; while the rest, by great labour and expense, is generally converted into carpetting, and other low-priced woollen manufactures.

I have reason to believe, if strict examinations into the manner in which nature protects this exposed race of her creatures from wet and cold were diligently made, while the impracticability of the ordinary mode of stapling the Highland fleece would become manifest, the value of it would be discovered, and the necessity of finding some mode of depuration, and some method of separating the several parts

without injury to each other, would become an imperative duty on the part of the investigators, to recommend to the manufacturers. The Highland fleece, I am told, has been separated into sixteen different sorts, exhibiting specimens not unlike coarse hair, ten inches long; and others of various lengths, and delicacy of fibre, equal in quality to the best short wool from the Shetland sheep. The intermediate samples were of a perfectly homogeneous nature, and fit for the manufacture of appropriate fabrics, unlike those at present from Scotch wool, which, being composed of all sorts of lengths, and of coarse and fine fibres, are deservedly ranked among inferior productions.

The general arrangements of the Wigton Society are extremely good, and the expense so limited as not to deter the subordinate husbandman from affording it his assistance.

This is a rock on which many English societies have split. Little benefit can be derived from agricultural meetings where practical farmers are precluded by any of the rules from giving their support. We sat down to dinner with seventy-five cheerful faces; and it was delightful to behold the spirit and good humour which prevailed.

The only painful moment that occurred was that of parting ; and as similar feelings never fail to occur on such occasions, I must endeavour to dissipate them by arrangements for to-morrow morning, when we leave Merton Hall for Port Patrick, which compel me to say, Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER VIII.

Port Patrick, August 19, 1813.

ON quitting Merton Hall our best wishes attended our kind host, for a long, long enjoyment of that satisfaction which must arise out of his indefatigable labours, and extensive improvements: many may envy, but all must approve, if they speak their honest sentiments, of exertions so generally beneficial and interesting to the country, and so encouraging to the community among whom he resides.

Three miles from Merton is Mr. Johnson's farm, who has done much, and is proceeding with spirit. The remainder of the road to Glenluce is very uninteresting; yet little doubt can be entertained that at no distant period the whole of this dreary tract will be reclaimed and brought into cultivation. Ten years ago the most enthusiastic in rural improvements would not have ventured to speculate on the probability of luxuriant crops of wheat occupying their present situations. Mr. Boyd's

success has laid a foundation on which future hopes may reasonably be sustained in similar enterprises, as any attempt which a few years ago would have been deemed imprudently hazardous will now be undertaken with confidence in the prospect of a successful result.

Our attention was attracted to two newly-erected cabins, the proprietors of which were busily employed in procuring ashes by the burning of sods, for the improvement of some small enclosures about their dwellings. We found they were Irishmen, and were pursuing the husbandry of their native country. I should not have expected to find that the agricultural practices of Scotland could be benefited by those of Ireland. On all extensive districts which are out of the reach of lime, and are destitute of chalk, marl, or other adventitious assistance, paring and burning the sod, while in a green state, and by a slow, smothered fire, will always reward the labour. A portion of vegetable alkali, which is highly beneficial to the growth of plants, is thus procured, beside the advantages which may be derived by the ashes of the burned clay or other soil.

Glenluce is a poor miserable place, which induced us to make our stay no longer than

could possibly be avoided. It is curious to contrast the stile of entertainment as related by Moryson two hundred years ago, with the present accommodations at the inns in Scotland. Disposed, as I have sometimes felt, to be angry at the want of cleanliness, on reference to his report, some consolation is to be derived ; still it is not easy to discover an apology for filth, and the absence of comfort. A desire of avoiding trouble, if it were uniformly the case, might be offered as an excuse ; but even this fails when we behold a great deal more labor than would be required, even to be nice, employed in producing the opposite effect. The interest too of all parties, but especially of inn-keepers, would be greatly advanced by so desirable a reformation, which, where the intercourse with strangers is not great, might the more easily be accomplished. The truth is, habitual dirtiness, like a box coat in a storm, prevents the sufferings which filth inflicts.

On quitting Glenluce, we passed by some mowers, who were cutting a second crop of clover, the very best I had seen in Scotland.

To Stranraer, the country is perfectly flat, with a sandy soil. The seat of Lord Stair, amid extensive plantations, commands a fine

82 *Bad Accommodations at Port Patrick.*

view of the bay. We were told that the system of green crops had been introduced into some of his Lordship's farms ; we saw but one small patch of turnips, although the soil is well disposed to their growth.

It has been in contemplation to make a new line of road to the port, which would save some miles, and avoid Stranraer. The public would be gainers by the alteration ; but the petty interests of individuals have hitherto prevented the undertaking.

From Stranraer the country is hilly ; and the regularity of the fences would induce a belief that the enclosures are of modern date.

Notwithstanding the great intercourse between Port Patrick and Donaghadee, the inns at the former place are but indifferent. When the packets happen to be detained for a few days, the place becomes so crowded that not a bed is to be had. The collector's appears to be the only good house in the town. The contracted entrance of the harbour renders it dangerous for a ship to come in during a gale of wind. The packets are good vessels, and are well manned. One accident only has occurred during the last twenty years. The tides run so

rapidly, as to give an idea that the passage could not be unattended with risk, yet the experience of years has proved it otherwise; and that the strength of the currents, which appears to constitute the danger and difficulty, is, in fact, the means of accelerating the intercourse between the two shores; for by consulting the tides, delays seldom occur. The London mail arrives daily about noon, and the packet sails as soon as possible afterwards.

It is in contemplation to make some improvements in the harbour, for the purpose of facilitating the embarkation of cavalry. The Marquis of Downshire was the first patron of this port; but in consequence of the impositions practised, he withdrew his support. This has led to the establishment of certain regulations that are effectual in preventing frauds.

The passage, and every thing connected with it, is very reasonable. Horses and carriages are embarked and transported with facility; and since the union, the passage has been more frequented.

The importation of horses and cattle from Ireland has been very considerable. In the last year, thirty thousand four hundred and twenty-

three beasts, and four thousand eight hundred and fifty-three horses, were landed here; their estimated value exceeded three hundred and fifty thousand pounds. The numerous and heavy tolls between Port Patrick and Carlisle induce the drovers to take many of their cattle in the coal ships to White Haven, or Workington, which has reduced the trade of the place. The distance across to Donaghadee is scarcely twenty-four miles; the usual time of the passage about four or five hours. The facility with which the passage is made, in some degree accounts for the inns being so indifferent. Whatever might be wanting, in point of comfort, at the Downshire Arms, nothing could exceed the civility and attention of the landlord, Mr. Gordon, who is besides a farmer on a small scale. He showed me a field of oats, sown the latter end of April, and now nearly ready for cutting; the oats are of a new sort, called the "sparrow bill," and are supposed to have been brought from America. Mr. Gordon grew some of them last year which weighed forty-six pounds the Winchester bushel; and as they ripen early, even when sown late, I conceive they may be a valuable acquisition to the agriculture of Scotland, and the northern parts of England. A field of his barley had been cut, and was safe in the stack. The po-

tatoe crop here is very promising ; the curl, in dry seasons, seldom makes its appearance.

We extended our walk nearly a mile along the cliff to Dunserry Castle, which appears to have been a place of considerable consequence ; from this spot we had a very fine view of the Irish coast.

Though we have now passed over one hundred and eighty miles of country ; yet, in a direct line across the Solway Frith, I should not estimate our distance from home much to exceed fifty. How much in idea does the extent of distant points consist ? Under these circumstances, the journey, thus far, would have appeared a considerable undertaking ; as it is, we regard it only as a prelude to that which we have in contemplation.

Several droves of cattle met us yesterday in low condition. Were the fertility of Ireland to be estimated by their appearance, no one could entertain a favourable opinion of its exuberance. The fact, however, being notoriously otherwise, reference must be had to moral, not physical, causes, among which, most probably, would be found extremely bad management, arising from the general poverty of the Irish husbandmen. Capital, skill, and industry, in the space of one

century, have converted the worst natural soil in the empire into a surface which now contends with the most luxuriant in the production of all kinds of grain.

When King James wished to parcel Norfolk out, to make roads for the rest of England, it could not have been in his contemplation that on a future day the agriculture of this county would give it a rank amongst the most valuable parts of his dominions. The rapid progress made on so discouraging a subject as the soil of Norfolk, during a period when so little improvement has been made in the more naturally fertile districts, may be ascribed to three local advantages; the dryness of its climate—the presence of marl—and the introduction of the turnip husbandry, by the first Marquis of Townshend's father; to whose indefatigable labours the posterity, not only of Norfolk, but the whole island, are under the most weighty obligations.

The mail is arrived, and our immediate embarkation announced: I have only time to add, that in petitioning Heaven for a fair wind, and a smooth sea, I do not forget to include health, happiness, and sunshine for you. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER IX.

Donaghadee, August 19, 1813.

THE afternoon was delightful; the little wind there was, favourable; and the sea perfectly smooth. Consonant as these circumstances were to our wishes, yet, like all other human concerns, a something still was wanting. The breeze was so faint that we made little progress, and seven hours were expended on the passage, during which the two coasts were seen to great advantage.

The rock of Ailsa presented a very singular and interesting object; its perpendicular height is about nine hundred and forty feet above high water-mark. While we moved slowly on, the mind was naturally and involuntarily drawn to the country we were about to visit. Of its topography, and natural history, I felt myself inexcusably ignorant; but of the objects in which its political interests were involved I was not altogether so uninformed.

The incorporation of one independent king-

dom with another was an event of great magnitude, and of such vital importance to each, as to call forth the attention, affect the interests, and possibly the future happiness, of every individual in both countries. I had examined the arguments, and the pretensions, of both parties, and had exercised an opinion on the points in controversy. Moderation was not the distinguishing character of either party, in the discussion of this great national question.

Mr. Pitt had not a more determined political opponent than myself; yet, decided as was my opposition to his general system of finance and government, that hostility did not warp my judgment on this occasion. An union of the two kingdoms appeared to me indispensably requisite to preserve the connexion between them :—the interest of both required it.

The experiment had been made in the union with Scotland, and with the happiest consequences; and although I cannot but admire the arguments of Mr. Fletcher, of Saltown, against it, yet is there now an individual of Scotland who would wish that great national measure had not been effected?

While there was every appearance that the

people of Ireland were about to exchange that which was light in the scale for many substantial advantages; yet the sacrifice of national importance, national influence, and national pride, required to be considerably received and liberally compensated.

The exterior form of the Irish government was correspondent to our own; but it was only nominally the same. The popular part of it depended not on the people, nor was the aristocratical exclusively influenced by the real property of Ireland. Its corruptions were as enormous as they were notorious; and the devotion of the government to one or other of the prevailing factions, paralysed its efforts, and stripped it of the respect and confidence of the people. A very superficial knowledge of the state of Ireland is sufficient to show that it wanted all those counterpoises and balances which are required to give a steady direction to mixed forms of government; and by which alone they are enabled to restrain the violence of popular spirit, on the one hand, and to controul the influence of an over-weening, overbearing aristocracy, on the other. The supreme authority and administration of Ireland had the outward form, but had not the internal spirit—the essence of the British constitution. The

90 *No Allegiance on the Part of the People.*

Commons were the mere puppets of the two great aristocratical factions—the people a feather in either scale, until arms were put into their hands, and they became the means of extorting, from the weakness of our councils, what ought to have been yielded to Ireland from a principle of justice. Corruption had become so general, so familiar, and so fashionable, as to extinguish all sense of propriety, and even that of shame. Remuneration was considered to be expected, if not actually demanded, not for public services performed, but for abstaining to clog the wheels of government. In power there was no shade of difference between one party and another; and while profusion was tolerated, nay encouraged, in the hope of profiting by it, there could be no reasonable ground to hope for the co-operation of a state to remedy abuses in which it so largely participated. The ties which bound the executive and legislative branches were so slight, and the influence of Great Britain so weak, that the Irish constitution tottered, and was in hourly jeopardy of falling. On the part of the people, there existed no allegiance to the constitution—no affection for the government—no respect for the laws:—and while a suffocated antipathy prevailed against their aristocratical leaders, the latter became identified with the

government of the country against them, purely from fear, and the consciousness of the absolute necessity of the strong arm of power to keep the people in subjection.

All ranks were dissatisfied, and felt themselves treated by Great Britain, not as a co-equal empire, but as a conquered province.

The extinction of such a government can afford no just reason for regret. The friends to rational liberty, in both countries, were called on to support an alteration so likely to benefit each, by the suppression of local prejudices, and the consolidation of mutual interests.

On references to an united parliament for the redress of wrongs, it could not but be expected that justice was more likely to be fairly dealt out than it had been to all parties.

The degrading expedients resorted to by Lords-lieutenant of modern times, were revolting to men of honour, and humiliating to the mother country. The last and concluding scene of the Irish parliament affixed a stain on its memory that no time can efface. Repeatedly in the parliament of the united empire was the whole legislative body of Ireland accused of

92 *Political Bribes termed Compensations.*

being bribed, without the charge calling forth the indignation of parties, or even an attempt at refutation. Many of the bare-faced jobs were dragged into public view, and as these could not pass *sub silentio*, disgraceful and futile endeavours were made to designate such enormities by the title of *compensations*.—Nothing could afford a more complete sanction to the union than the means by which it was ultimately effected. The odium attached to its completion rests with the bribed, not the briber; and as the measure had become expedient, and was indispensable, it was better to advance at once the whole cost of corruption, and have done with it, than to pay an annual interest on this aggregate of national delinquency.

The general sentiment of the English parliament, as far as I could judge, was to deal liberally towards Ireland in all that related to its trade; and had it not been influenced, the same disposition would have been manifested in dispensing with all religious distinctions. Had this been effected, great credit would have been due to Mr. Pitt; but even as it was, the measure was confessedly a most desirable one for both kingdoms.

· If a free trade in grain was withheld, it ought-

to be considered as more imputable to oversight than intention, which was proved by the manner in which it has since been conceded.

The great pressure on our trade, occasioned by the present exclusion from the continent, has so much depressed the general commerce of the country, that, until things are restored to their usual channel, no fair judgment can be formed as to the ulterior effects of the union; I am, however, far from contending that some disadvantages may not arise to Ireland out of this conjunction.

The seat of government being removed to England will necessarily increase the present calamity of drawing the Irish nobility and gentry from out of their own country to its great disadvantage; yet that which may appear to be a present evil may by possibility be productive of a future good—should it tend to lessen the over-grown fortunes, and to cause a more equal distribution of landed property. In the event of a peace being obtained which might promise a lasting repose to Europe, the trade of this quarter of the globe, after a time, would probably be greatly increased; the augmentation in knowledge which would thus be produced could not fail of being a stimulus to

more general exertion ; and as Ireland possesses such natural advantages, and such numerous facilities for the promoting of commerce, she cannot fail to reap a full share of whatever benefits may hereafter accrue to the empire. From these and other considerations of no less importance, the bias of my mind was decidedly in favour of the union ; and it will require arguments of a most convincing nature to induce me to believe it can ultimately prove otherwise than beneficial to Ireland.

So entirely had my mind been absorbed in revolving this great political question, that time past unheeded, and I did not perceive our near approach to the shore till the report of a cannon roused me from the reverie into which I had fallen, and which, I fear, you may by this time have cause to regret was of so long duration.

Parties were soon on board the packet from each of the inns, the representations of their respective abundant comforts left us nothing to wish in addition. The colouring of the competitors was so gaudy as to be scarcely fit to impose upon the most credulous traveller ; for with all the native modesty they could assume, it was with difficulty they could put a serious face on their obliging importunities. The Irish

are certainly naturally eloquent—always cheerful—frequently witty—and ever disposed to joke. The advice of Mr. Gordon, however, decided us. “He who expects nothing can never be disappointed.” The moderation of our hopes was a security against their being defeated. It was too dark for observations on what surrounded us. Comfort in a sea-port town, whether in Ireland or England, is rarely to be found. The people, however, were very civil, and fatigue made any spot welcome which promised us the luxury of sleep.—To which, after this further encroachment on your patience and good humour, it is but fit that, in charity, I should most cordially commend you. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER X.

Belfast, August 20, 1813.

YOU must frequently, I conceive, have been struck with the contrast observable in portraits of the same person by different masters. The resemblance strong in each, but with dissimilar expression of character. The painter who seizes one prominent feature produces a caricature: a correct likeness requires each feature to have its due share of expression, or in other words, the presence of the mind as operating on it. In this consists the ability of the artist; without a delineation of mind, the resemblance is imperfect. This is equally applicable to portraits of countries as of persons.

To paint faithfully, a correct eye, strong powers of discrimination, fidelity and feeling, combined with patience, are requisite. The union of such qualities is rare, and falls to the lot of few; and thus may we account for the daubs which are so frequently to be met with in both instances. Do not suppose me so much the dupe of vanity as to hope I can present you

with more than very imperfect sketches. To attempt the production of a likeness, which should please more than one party in Ireland, I believe to be utterly impossible.

Such appears to be on all occasions the contrariety of sentiments, that the most ingenious attempts to reconcile them would be found to be unavailing. It is with great difficulty I can suppose either party really think so ill of the other as they profess, or believe all the good, they are so fondly disposed to attribute to themselves. My qualifications and abilities for discriminating may be fairly doubted, but the sincerity of my motives cannot be questioned; and unfettered as my opinions now are, with political interest or party influence, by agreeing with neither I hazard offence to both. On the subject of the union you are already in possession of my sentiments—on the Catholic emancipation I shall find some appropriate occasion to become explicit. Every individual here is enlisted as a champion on the one side or the other. The natural warmth, or rather violence of temper, disqualifies the Irish to think so sedately as to ensure temperate discussions on public questions, much less on those in which they are so nearly and deeply interested.

98 *Prevailing Prejudices against the Irish.*

It is humiliating to contemplate the prejudices which have prevailed from the earliest times against the Irish. John Derriche wrote and published a poem on Ireland, in 1581, dedicated to "Philip Sidney, Esq."

From the "Epistle Dedicatorie," I have extracted sufficient to show what was the spirit of the author agreeable to, and encouraged by, the then ruling powers. "Truth is, my very good Ladies of credit, vain, being given to the artificer simply as he meaneth, the substance is all one, the matter I mean to the very title of that which is here called Woodkarne, who disallowing their knavishe manner affirme their dissolute life, and inordinate living fitter to pertain unto infidelities and heathen, than for those which, in any respect, professe the name of Christe (and what Christians these are, right honourable, judge ye), wherefore be not then offended, O ye defenders of virtue and embracers of civility, that I should so loathe and inveigh those base unseemly manners, setting out in lively profite, in contemplating the same, both their shape and execrable occasions (for in very truth) my hate dooeth detest those wild shamrocke manners, yea so much, that rather because there is no society or fellowship

between God and the Devill, little amitie between the wolf and the lamb—like good will between a rebell and a faithful subject. I shall not be curious in discharging my conscience in letting you understand, that they are a people sprung from Machu-Swine, a barbarous offspring come from that nation which may be perceived by their doggishe fashion.”

A similar deep-rooted antipathy seems to have existed when Spencer wrote his “View of Ireland,” in which we have the following description of the character of the people :

“For they care much lesse than others what they sweare, and sure their Lords may compel them to say any thing—for I myself have heard when one of the baser sort (which they call churles) being challenged and reproved for his false oath, has answered confidently, that his lord commanded him, and it was the least thing that he could do for his lord to sweare for him; so inconstionable are the common people, and so little feeling have they of God or their own soule’s good.”

What would Spencer’s feelings be at this day could he witness the administration of the oath against bribery at a contested election; where,

in the very presence of those who have caused the bribes to be accepted by their voters, this solemn appeal to Heaven is made and heard without remorse ; knowing at the time of the bribery the awful predicament in which such parties would be placed on the day of election, and being perfectly indifferent to their eternal happiness on the day of judgment.

“ On the origin of the name of Ireland many different opinions have been maintained—some have contended it to be derived *ab hiberno tempore*—others from Iberus, a Spaniard ; from the river Iber—and the author of the Eulogium, from a Captain, called “ Irnalph.” If the original is to be traced by the Irish name Erin only, I am at a loss ; nor can I tell what to think of the matter, unless it might perhaps come from Hiere, an Irish word signifying the west, or a tract westward ; and so Erin may import as much as west country, and be derived from thence.” *

We found Donaghadee to be situated on the north-east coast, about fifteen miles from Belfast : it naturally excited a degree of interest, infinitely beyond what it was entitled to, on any other ground than that of its being our first resting place in Ireland. The town is small,

* Cambden.

but as the outsides of the houses are white-washed, a cheerful appearance is produced. A new market-house is building. The approach to the port has so little depth of water that the harbour can only be entered by small vessels; the passage and the export of cattle and horses to England constitute its chief trade; and from what we could learn the place was in a thriving condition.

The Copeland Isles form the northernmost boundary of Belfast Bay, upon one of which a new light-house is erecting on an improved construction. The Antrim mountains have a very bold appearance on the opposite side of the bay.

At the upper end of the town is a considerable rath, or circular elevation of earth, frequent in Ireland: whether the original application of these was to religious or civil purposes is now unknown.

“The rath, or hill, is used here to parlie (as they say) about matters and wrongs between one township and another. The Talkrates were built by the Saxons, as the word bewearith; for it signifies in the Saxon a meeting of the talk, and these are, in most part, in form four-

square well entrenched. The others that were round were cast up by the Danes, as the name of them doth betoken; for they are called Danes Rathes, that is hills of the Danes, and appointed as was by them desired, not for treaties or parlies, but operated as forts. The first invasion of Oostmans or Danes was in 795."

The rath is capable of containing one hundred persons on its summit, which is about sixty or seventy feet high, whence a very fine view is obtained of the neighbouring country. The northern invaders certainly inflicted great sufferings on the conquered; yet it was these intruders who first planted the germs of independence in our happy soil, which in the progressive course of time have happily produced our love of liberty and our glorious constitution.

On our way back to the inn through the poorest part of the town, we were forcibly struck with notifications to the following effect at the doors of some of the cabins:—"Dry Lodgings." "God help the poor souls," we exclaimed, "can it be necessary to apprize travellers that under those roofs they would be protected from the inclemency of the weather?"

We were, however, not long before we dis-

covered that these intimations were for lodgings, without victuals or drink—a house without a license which received travellers. This was a salutary hint against forming hasty conclusions in a perfectly new country.

The arrangements of the packets are so good, we had no cause to complain of any attempt to extort. “Cheap and dirty,” was the character given by some one of his quarters. This short but comprehensive description conveys a correct idea of Donaghadee.

From what we had seen we were disposed to entertain a very favourable opinion of the country.

The county of Down is much diversified with hill and dale; so great is the variety of independent hills of nearly the same altitude, forming no chain, nor having any determinate direction, that it has not been unaptly compared to a surface of eggs.

The land, for the four miles to Bangor, appeared to be strong; the crops of grain and potatoes looked well: but it was sufficiently evident that their good appearance was more ascribable to the natural fertility of the soil, than to the

knowledge or efforts of the cultivators. The corn was at this time ready for harvesting.

Bangor is a small port on the bay of Belfast. The honorable Mr. Ward is meritoriously attempting great improvements in the harbour; and, should his labours succeed, much shelter will be afforded to vessels of small draft of water in tempestuous weather. The port, however, is not likely to attract any considerable trade. There is one cotton mill, but the works at it are at present suspended. The two professions of farmer and manufacturer are here mostly united, not profitably I much fear, having ever considered them as incompatible with each other.

A farm of one hundred acres is considered, in this neighbourhood, to be a great, nay extraordinary undertaking. Thirty acres are about the number in the occupation of one individual, of which, most commonly, a small part is sublet to cottiers, one or more of whom are attached to every farm.

Such a system has the effect of augmenting the population to a ruinous extent, while the subdivision of land into such patches is an effectual bar to any material improvement in the hus-

bandry of the country. To obtain the possession of a cabin is the great object of every individual; and as the competitors are numerous, the rents are consequently very high, being regulated, not by the worth of the tenement, but the wants of the parties.

Capital is as necessary as skill, to ensure the greatest possible produce from the soil; but where the land is in the possession of individuals only one degree above mendicity, and many degrees below sufficiency in the requisite information for conducting agricultural concerns, it cannot be matter of surprise, that not one half the quantity of food is procured, which might be, from the like quantity of labor, applied to such a soil under a better system of management.

The whole expense of erecting buildings is universally borne by the tenant. The appendage of a barn is a convenience very seldom enjoyed by the Irish farmer; the hard naked highway furnishes the floor on which his grain is threshed. A great part of the straw from this process is applied to thatching; the rest is totally lost for want of protection from the weather. The manure thus made is necessarily of inferior quality—trifling, and insufficient,

106 *Ears of Corn not threshed but burned.*

when compared to the extent of the land under tillage.

What sort of machine the van was, among the Romans or Normans, it is not easy at this day to determine. Tradition shows they did not thresh, but burn the ears of the corn to get at the grain. This operation was also resorted to in Scotland, and was performed in the following manner. A woman, sitting down, took a handful of corn, by the stems, in her left hand, and set the ears on fire; while with a stick she held in her right, she beat out the grain as soon as the husks were burnt, so that the corn might be threshed—dressed—winnowed—ground, and baked in an hour after it was reaped. The meal thus produced was called Highland graddan; and by the tenth and eleventh of Charles the First, it was enacted, that no person shall burn corn or grain in the straw, on pain of imprisonment in the common jail for ten days, without bail or mainprize. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions the mills of Locherin and St. Phechin, or Fechin:—the former would grind nothing on Sundays, nor that which had been stolen. These seem to have been water mills, erected by the monks: querns were more generally used, and seem to have been amply sufficient for grinding whatever wheat might be produced in Ireland

to a late period. The same author observes that the wheat of Ireland was so small and contracted, as scarcely to be cleaned by the van, as there was much straw, but little corn. Cruitneach, in the Irish language, signifies wheat; and the Craitnie is the name of a Scandinavian tribe, who were wheat-eaters; and from whom, it is probable, the Irish first received a knowledge of its culture and use.

The first and most important object in the rural economics of Ireland is the crop of potatoes; for on this exclusively depends the existence of all the lower orders not resident in towns. Hence all the manure which can be collected by their own means, and all that can be otherwise procured, is applied to the cultivation and increase of this indispensable crop—for on this alone do they rely for their subsistence, until the next annual supply can be obtained. Sea-weed, in this district, is resorted to as an adventitious manure for this valuable purpose, and it is said to answer very well if ploughed into the ground before Christmas; but if this be delayed, it is a commonly received notion, though probably a vulgar error, that the flavor of the potatoe is so much affected, as to be rejected even by cattle. The small farmers seldom keep more than one horse each,

but by uniting their powers they are enabled to plough and raise their potatoes on stitches; while the less wealthy cottier is compelled to the labor of the shovel, and to continue the practice of his forefathers, by planting them on lazy beds: this is performed by cutting trenches two feet deep on each side of an interval, or bed, six feet wide; on the grass or surface of which the potatoe sets are laid in rows, and then covered over with the excavated earth from the trenches, which is repeated from time to time, as the shoots require to be moulded up. Fifteen years ago this was a common practice in the North of England, but it is now generally abandoned.

In a country where there is such a redundancy of manual labor, the sacrifice of time is little esteemed; yet it cannot be questioned that while the labor is greater, the produce is less.

The land let to the cottiers is after the rate of four pounds per Irish acre (five roods); and if manure for the potatoe crop be supplied by the parties letting, an additional sum is charged by them, who, in general, pay about forty-two shillings per acre for the farms they occupy. One fourth of the ground in tillage may be considered as applied to the growth of potatoes, be-

side which every farmer has a small patch of flax. The care of both these crops fall entirely on the women, who generally perform their task very creditably to themselves, and advantageously to their families.

Giraldus Cambrensis, in 1185, represents Ireland as without roads, and almost uninhabited. Sir William Petty, so late as 1641, did not suppose Ireland to contain more than three hundred thousand inhabitants: what a contrast to the population at this day, which is considered as amounting to nearly six millions of souls! In some places the numbers of people are astonishing; and in many districts, I am persuaded, an inhabitant would be found for every acre: the quantity of land applied to the growth of potatoes forms a tolerably good rule by which the local population may be calculated. The wages per day, for the men, are from eightpence to tenpence—women, sevenpence to tenpence; but during the time of harvest, these prices are doubled; and while they are employed in cutting the grain, it is customary to give food also to the laborers.

The average produce of wheat, per Irish acre, is estimated at twenty-six Winchester bushels—barley, thirty-five bushels—oats, twenty-five

bushels—and from one thousand to fifteen hundred stone of potatoes, which would give an average of three hundred and sixty-two bushels and a half. Their mode of cropping is so unmercifully severe, that if the soil did not possess uncommon fertility, a system of such exhaustion as three white crops in succession, without the application of any manure, must soon reduce it to a state of sterility. Yet here the practice is considered as gentle treatment! The last corn crop is sown down with clover, and, as may reasonably be expected, those crops, in general, are very unproductive.

Gratified as I was by the beautiful exterior and natural fertility of a country I had long wished to see, I became impatient to ascertain the state and condition of its lowly inhabitants, for whom I had already conceived no small degree of interest. The uniform hilarity and vivacity of the peasantry, in defiance of their apparent distress, indicated contentment and a perfectly easy mind; but could this really be the case, surrounded as they were by cares, and destitute as they were of comforts? Could these cheerful appearances, scarcely possible to be mistaken, be referred to the effect of long continued habit, or to the want of sensibility? Or did they result from the happy ignorance of

artificial wants, and a grateful appreciation of the three natural ones, food—raiment—and shelter, in which, though humbly, they apparently luxuriated.

Even among the most retired rustics we observed indications of considerable intelligence, attended by an uniform and almost officious civility, which entitles them to be considered, if not the most estimable, certainly the most pleasing peasantry in Europe. They approach strangers without reserve—converse with great freedom, and with frankness and pleasure communicate their circumscribed knowledge; for which, in return, they expect their curiosity should be satisfied, as to the objects which may have induced the presence of unknown persons among them.

On our visits to several of their cabins, I became taught that there existed gradations; and possibly as many in the scale of necessity as in that of superfluity.

In human abodes, where the presence of a chimney is an acknowledged luxury, the absence of all other necessary appendages to such a residence, which according to our ideas of household conveniences are required to make

life even supportable, may be easily imagined.

These mansions of miserable existence, for so they may truly be described, conformably to our general estimation of those indispensable comforts requisite to constitute the happiness of rational beings, are most commonly composed of two rooms on the ground floor, a most appropriate term, for they are literally on the earth; the surface of which is not unfrequently reduced a foot or more, to save the expense of so much outward walling. The one is a refectory, the other the dormitory. The furniture of the former, if the owner ranks in the upper part of the scale of scantiness, will consist of a kitchen dresser, well provided and highly decorated with crockery—not less apparently the pride of the husband, than the result of female vanity in the wife; which, with a table—a chest—a few stools—and an iron pot, complete the catalogue of conveniences generally found, as belonging to the cabin; while a spinning-wheel, furnished by the Linen Board, and a loom, ornament vacant spaces, that otherwise would remain unfurnished. In fitting up the latter, which cannot, on any occasion, or by any display, add a feather to the weight or importance expected to be excited by the appearance of the

former, the inventory is limited to one, and sometimes two beds, serving for the repose of the whole family ! However downy these may be to limbs impatient for rest, their coverings appeared to be very slight, and the whole of the apartment created reflections of a very painful nature. Under such privations, with a wet mud floor, and a roof in tatters, how idle the search for comforts !

It is not from cold and wet alone that a being who possesses reflection, as well as corporeal feelings, must suffer. Can it be matter of wonder that the innate sense of female delicacy should be stifled or destroyed, while in the other sex the natural aversion to unseemly habits should by degrees become lessened, and even familiarized ? Certainly not. The only wonder is, that the demoralizing influence of such wretchedness on the Irish character, has not long ago been found to be more general and pernicious.

The sufferings from hunger are neither felt nor dreaded ; nor can the dainties of the opulent epicure, partaken with equivocal hunger, be compared with the Irishman's potatoe, and his honest appetite !

114 *Diminution of Fuel from the Bogs.*

Fuel constitutes their principal comfort, and is become a very important consideration. Warmth, unquestionably, may be added as a fourth to the other three natural wants of man. In addition to the duration of light, it is warmth that gives to summer the decided superiority over the rest of the seasons; and though excessive heat may occasionally produce some disorders, yet warmth is the restorer and preserver of health, and the great ingredient in human felicity. On this view of the subject it is much to be regretted that the source whence the fuel of the country is generally obtained, namely, the bogs, is in this district becoming unprolific. The bog, which has hitherto afforded the needed supply, is wearing away, and the people ere long will be compelled to resort to more distant substitutes; for as the bogs do not regenerate, and as the demand on them is likely to increase yearly, in time they must fail to administer the comfort now derived by the inhabitants. This consequence is not unlikely to operate as a check to the further increase of population.

The condition and state of the people, at least in this part of the country, exceeded the expectations I had formed of their industry.

there are but few of the men who do not work at the loom.

As we proceeded, our attention was called to two comfortable-looking farm-houses, and on inquiry we were informed that they were inhabited by considerable farmers, who occupied nearly one hundred acres each! The dress of both sexes, on gala days, is highly decent and proper. The women in general wearing nothing on their heads but a cap of muslin or linen. Unaccustomed to the luxury of a hat, its absence seemed to be unattended with inconvenience; though the want of shade to the face in fine, and shelter in bad weather, must, I should suppose, be severely felt. Their hair is an object of great care and attention. In whatever dishabille the younger part of the sex may appear, their hair is always carefully put up in papers; and, when dressed, great pains are bestowed in curling and disposing it in becoming ringlets. Vanity, which exercises a dominion over every mortal in a greater or less degree, teaches the people of both sexes here, that shoes are to be considered as appendages of ornament rather than of use. As we approached Belfast we met numbers, both of men and women, who had halted to disrobe themselves of their shoes and stockings, after these had served the purposes

116 *Tatters and Filth not destructive of Health.*

of exhibition. Motives of œconomy, as well as comfort, induced the wearers to disencumber themselves of these superfluities. The poor children are suffered to run about in a most ragged dirty condition ; yet rosy health is seen to bloom on their countenances, and their spirits and activity seem to declare that tatters and filth are not inimical to their growth, and sound constitutions ; though, in opposition to our generally received notions, that nothing contributes so much to the one, or so firmly establishes the other, as cleanliness, and great attention to external coverings.

The white-thorn, at present, appears to grow luxuriantly and rapidly in all situations ; and as this is confessedly the best and most beautiful material for the subdivision of lands, the want of good fences is much to be regretted ; as they would add greatly to the convenient depasturage of the fields, and the pleasant appearance of the country.

As we approached Belfast, the accumulation of riches, by the profitable application of capital and productive labor, to manufactures and commerce, became visible, by the improvements which had been made on both sides of our path. This gratification kept increasing as

we shortened our distance from the town. Here the diffusion of wealth became manifested by the numerous detached residences which presented themselves, highly ornamented by the taste of those whose industry and ability had provided the means, and entitled them to the luxury of country exercises, as a relaxation from the counting-house—the cares and perplexities of mercantile vocations. A more picturesque or delightful situation could hardly have been chosen or scarcely imagined; uniting in one view great natural sublimity with a profusion of artificial beauty. The scenery was so impressive as frequently to arrest our attention so as to stop our progress. The rich margin that borders the bay of Belfast, while washed by the waters of the spacious Lough, and bounded by the lofty coast of Antrim, was decorated by villas, and all that opulence could devise; and as the eye travelled upwards it became gratified with the sight of cultivation advancing to the summit of the hills, whose sloping sides were studded with the white-washed cabins of those for whom humanity with a sigh supplicated a competence. The beauty of the landscape we were contemplating was made complete by a view of the noble town of Belfast, occupying a considerable extent at the head of the bay, and overlooked by

the frowning black mountain which rises immediately behind it, whose naturally barren surface would have produced a deformity in the picture, had not the efforts of industry, and the daily application of capital, relieved its appearance from this effect, and claimed its assistance with that of Carrickfergus, the shipping in the Lough, and other objects of interest, to create a general character of business-like activity and exertion, consequent on the commerce of the most considerable sea-port in the northern part of the island.

I do not know I ever beheld a scene, taking it altogether, which produced me the interest, the pleasure, I received in this part of our drive; nor do I think it possible to be seen by any one endowed with perceptions capable of being justly affected, without its inspiring the warmest feelings of admiration.

We were much pleased with the village of Holywood, whose beautiful situation has most probably induced the erection of a number of neat cottages let for the accommodation of sea-bathing. Some handsome gentlemen's seats are scattered about this neighbourhood. We noticed a small field of turnips belonging to Mr. Kennedy, the proprietor of one of them,

who apparently had some pretensions to good farming.

The wheat harvest was begun. The method of placing the sheaves in the field to protect them from rain, and prevent their being blown down, was not less deserving observation than it may hereafter be found worthy of imitation. The practice is called stooking, and is performed in the following manner:—Each stook consists of twenty-four sheaves, twelve of which are placed length-ways, with eight crossing them in the middle, at right angles, while the remaining four are so placed as completely to cover the other twenty. It is scarcely possible that wheat-sheaves thus disposed can be blown down; a stook, or shock, of this construction would certainly prevent much loss and vexation, which is often experienced from such accidents.

As we came near to Belfast we found the road much thronged. It was the market-day; and the orderly decent appearance, without the least symptom of intoxication or rudeness in the people, was not less creditable to the multitude than complimentary to the police of the neighbourhood.

The distance we had travelled from Donaghadee was only fifteen miles, yet such had been our amusement on the road that it had occupied four hours in a most pleasant manner. The roads, made at the expense of the county, are admirable, and cost the traveller no more than every one ought cheerfully to pay—his gratitude!

Belfast is considered to be one of the most thriving towns in Ireland: it must now far surpass all ideas that could be entertained by the first settlers; and though its rise appears like enchantment, it has all the advantages which could be derived from a regular plan. The streets are broad, the houses handsome; and the display made by the shops was to us very unexpected. The quays have been greatly improved, and extensive docks are now making.

Belfast and its suburbs contain thirty-two thousand inhabitants; and in point of situation, and the facilities it is capable of affording to trade, few places can boast an equality—still fewer superiority. A large proportion of the inhabitants are presbyterians, descended from Scotch ancestors, and strongly retaining the features of the country from which they spring.

Affray between Orange Party and Catholics. 121

The inn was crowded, and we had little temptation to prolong our stay in it beyond the time absolutely necessary for our refreshment.

A serious disturbance had recently taken place between the orange party and the Roman Catholics. The commemoration of events by the few, which are offensive to the many, is highly impolitic, ill-judged, and ought to be discouraged by the government of the country and every friend to order. Intolerance, with whatever colour it may deck itself, cannot serve, but may injure a good cause. The physical force of a country is not to be insulted with impunity. I cannot stoop to inquire who was the aggressor! The disorder should have been prevented. Humanity, if not wisdom, ought to influence the friends of Ireland by all possible means to obliterate every trace and recollection which can produce feelings of irritation and animosity. Tranquillity might surely be preserved, and these dissensions quieted, were half the pains taken to consign them to oblivion, which are now used to foment them.

Amidst the genuine pleasures of this day my only regret throughout it has been, that you were not a partaker of them with yours,

J. C. C.

LETTER XI.

Antrim, August 21, 1813.

TRAVELLERS have a chance of two roads from Belfast to Bally Castle. The one by Carrickfergus, we were told, affords beautiful views of the Lough of Belfast, and the stupendous rocks near Fair-head. The principal object in the other, on which we decided, although I believe it to be the least interesting of the two, is Lough Neagh, of which we had an extensive view as we ascended the Black Mountain; as also of the superb mountain scenery of the county of Down, and the grand Alpine boundary formed by the Mourne mountains.

The Black Mountain, whose ascent is so steep as to induce our ascending it on foot, is covered with a miserably bad soil; but on the side of Belfast it has been reclaimed and cultivated at a great expense, and is now greatly diversified with numerous white-washed cabins, which, with their bleaching greens, and other improvements, give it a very cheerful appear-

ance. Our walk up afforded us an opportunity of conversing with many of the people who were returning from the market at Belfast. I was most agreeably impressed with the sobriety, regularity, and order, of those we had met in the morning; but was still more so on the present occasion, when the lateness of the hour might have accounted for, if it did not excuse, the appearance of inebriety, which was exhibited in one solitary instance only.

The care and attention paid to this helpless intoxicated individual by his neighbours, inspired us with a high opinion of their humanity and good nature. How different was this specimen of fellow-feeling, and social regard, to that which my mind was prepared to meet, from the accounts so generally circulated to the disadvantage of the people of Ireland.

On our gaining the summit of the mountain a great diversity of scenery was presented; and as the sun was setting, it contributed, in a high degree, to the clear and distinct view which our situation afforded us of Lough Neagh; an immense expanse of water, in the midst of a plain, circumscribed by a ridge, formed of the lofty mountains of Down, Armagh, Antrim, Tyrone, and Londonderry. Undoubtedly the

prospect was of a sublime nature ; but whether I had raised my expectations too highly, or that at this moment I should have been more disposed to have been pleased with subordinate objects of a beautiful cast, or from what other cause I know not, but I confess I felt greatly disappointed.

The cultivation of the mountain on the Antrim side is very indifferent—the cabins poor ; and as we descended, the whole formed a complete contrast to what we had beheld in our ascending walk. Like the glorious sun, industry illuminates, and gives a vital interest, wherever it prevails ; and both the one and the other are requisite, in the contemplation of a thickly inhabited country, to render the prospect as agreeable to the reflection as it may be beautiful to the sight.

Two miles short of Antrim we passed Lord Massarene's noble residence, which he is now embellishing ; but the night had so closed in, that all we could discern was the stately timber with which it was surrounded.

As the county town we had flattered ourselves with good accommodation at the inn ; but as we approached, appearances were unpro-

missing; and it was fortunate we made up our minds to disappointment, or the want of English comforts might have been severely felt. Of the civility of the house we had no reason to complain.

The appearance of the town this morning did not impress us with a more favourable opinion than the evening before had inspired. The landlord assured us that the view of the lake, about half a mile from the town, was not to be exceeded; and obligingly offered to be our conductor, after breakfast, to an eminence whence we commanded a distinct prospect of this extensive water, whose surface within half a mile of its head is so contracted as to give it the appearance of a noble river.

The woods at Shanes Castle, and those belonging to Lord Massarene, contribute to beautify the margin of this part of the lake, where the scenery is interesting; but the flat shores of the upper end of it have nothing to invite more than a passing look.

Our landlord rents a considerable farm, and has great pride in the cheeses he obtains from his milk—they really were good; and had they been otherwise, the inferiority of them in this

126 Ignorance in the Conduct of the Dairy.

neighbourhood could not have been attributed to a want of luxuriance in the grazing lands. Under the present management of dairies, nothing can exceed the sweetness of his butter, which is certainly indicative of good cow pasture; but the same rule does not always apply to cheese, for it is admitted that some of the highest flavored cheese is procured from herbage of a quality far inferior to that understood by rich cow pasture.

The want of success in the production of butter and cheese of the best quality, is more ascribable to a want of knowledge in the process of procuring either, than to the herbage on which the cattle may depasture. The quantity and flavor capable of being obtained, especially of butter, is dependant on chemical niceties that are never practised. Nor is it generally known that the making of both systematically is dependant on the unerring rules of science, in which the proprietors or conductors of dairy farms are seldom educated. It is not commonly understood, and perhaps it may be as little credited, that the mismanagement of dairies is not confined to one or other of the several processes, but extends to all. Among them the two following are of great consequence:—First, the want of means to regulate

at all times, and in all seasons, the temperature of the dairy, is a most important defect; for on this entirely depends the quantity of cream produced. Secondly, collecting all the milk at every meal, from all the cows together, is wholly destructive of the fine flavor of butter; while the subsequent unchemical methods pursued in making cheese are not less destructive of the dairyman's interest than a reproach to his understanding.

Dr. Anderson, in his *Essays*, "relating to agriculture and rural affairs," is the only author, I believe, who has treated this subject scientifically, and at the same time in so familiar a way as to make his discussions practically useful; his labors however have, I believe, done little good, and until the business of the dairy shall be conducted agreeably to those chemical rules and regulations, which its true interest demands, the proprietors must be content to receive such returns as the best guess of the best dairy-maids may enable them to yield to their employers.

On our return to the inn our landlord introduced us to a neighbouring farmer, who told us he was an advocate for the soiling system, and that he soiled his own cows by feeding them

128 *Supply of Fish from Lough Neagh.*

with cut grass during the day, and turning them out at night. He thought highly of the practice, not only as to the increased produce he obtained, but as it augmented the quantity of his dung. He considered the additional manure equal to the expense incurred, and that his clover, mown and carted to his stock, fed double the number he could have grazed upon it. He stated his farm to consist of about one hundred acres, which we should gladly have visited had not our road been in an opposite direction, as I should have been most happy to have given him encouragement in so beneficial though novel a practice in this country, by offering him on the spot the results of my experiments on a larger scale.

The market is abundantly supplied with very fine fish from the Lough, which abounds with a variety of species of trout. The dorchar is peculiar to Lough Neagh. I saw some of good size; they are darker in colour, and broader on the shoulder than trouts are commonly.

Lough Neagh receives a number of tributary streams, among which the Black Water, made navigable by means of a canal to Newry, is the principal one. The Bann, or White Water, is the outlet of the Lough into the sea, and dis-

charges its waters near Coleraine. On the shores of the Lough are found petrifications of wood; much discussion as to their origin has taken place, some contending that they are consequent on a petrifying agency in the soil, while others impute the transmutation to certain mineral springs which rise in the Lough. Gerard Boate, in his *Natural History of Ireland*, published in 1649, says, "I cannot omit the credible assurance that was given me of the gathering of a dram of pure gold out of the brook of Miola, which rises in the hills of Slewgalen, and falls into the north-west corner of Lough Neagh." Whence he reasonably infers, "that in the aforesaid mountains rich gold mines do lie hidden." Although this observation of Boates does not apply to the changing of wood into stone, it indicates the presence of minerals in the neighbourhood of the Lough, and makes it more than probable that the petrificative effects on wood may thence be derived.

The little traffic that is carried on here is chiefly confined to the heavy articles of coal, grain, &c. which would probably be extended were the obstructions in the Bann removed, and the navigation improved; the water at present being shoal and the shores difficult of access. Were a more free and unobstructed passage to

120 *Lough Neagh capable of Improvement.*

the ocean given to the waters of the Lough through the river Bann, they might probably be lowered several feet, and large portions of it might be drained and cultivated. Its natural beauties are but few, and these could not suffer by contracting its dimensions; which, if practicable, would not only add frontage, but be highly beneficial to the surrounding estates, as they must suffer materially by its overflowing waters. The extent of Lough Neagh may entitle it to a rank among the larger description of lakes in Europe, its length being twenty, its breadth, in the broadest part, ten miles across, and it is calculated to cover above one hundred and ten thousand acres.

Lord Oneil has the reputation of being the most considerable farmer in the province, and of growing the greatest quantity of wheat and other grain. This induced me to inquire if his lordship cultivated turnips, or other green crops. In reply I understood, that experiments had been made by the old lord, but these not succeeding, the practice had been discontinued. On passing Shanes Castle we regretted that further attempts were not made—observing the soil to be a sandy loam lying upon a peat, than which, no surface seems better adapted to the growth of turnips.

On looking into some of the cabins I had the comfort of finding them more calculated for the abode of their humble tenants than I had feared to have found them, but I did not understand that their rents were more moderate. Fuel, their principal comfort here, as well as on the other side of the Black Mountain, costs them about fourteen shillings the ton. Coal is brought from Newry, and is but partially used. In calculating the price of the turf, the labor of cutting it is not taken into account, as few of the poor fellows are fortunate enough to be so constantly employed as not to have leisure for digging their own fuel.

The soil in the vale of Antrim is rich, as was verified by the luxuriance of the crops. We caught a sight of one of the round towers at the distance of about half a mile from us; but as we expect to meet many others, we suspended our curiosity for the present. Few remains have occasioned more controversy among antiquaries than these buildings.

Edward Ledwicke, in his Account of Ireland, supposes "the Irish had neither domestic edifices, nor religious structures of lime and stone, antecedent to the ninth century."

“ I dare boldly say,” adds Davis, “ that never any particular person from the Conquest to the reign of James the First did build any stone or brick house for his private habitation, but such as have lately obtained estates according to the course of the law of England.” Giraldus Cambrensis, about 1185, is the first who mentions the round towers. He calls them “ ecclesiastical towers, which are a style or fashion peculiar to the country—narrow, high, and round.” John Lynch, in 1662, is the next who speaks of these towers: his words are, “ The Danes, who entered Ireland, according to Giraldus, in 838, are reputed to be the authors of our orbicular narrow towers; they are called clock theach, that is, the house of the bell.” Peter Walsh, in 1684, supposes them built after 838, to serve as watch towers against the natives. “ After the expulsion of the Danes they were applied as belfries. It seems to have been an uniform opinion of every author who has spoken of round towers for the space of five hundred and forty-two years, i. e. from the time of Cambrensis to Molyneaux, who says that they were of Oostman or Danish origin. Cloghach’d, the name by which they are said to be at present called amongst the native Irish, offers a further proof of their origin, and that they

were first founded by Oostman ; for the Irish word Cloghached is taken from a foreign language ; and, being a term of art, imports the thing it signifies, must likewise be derived from foreigners, as, if necessary, might be made to appear by many instances. Now the Irish word does plainly own its etymology to Claga, a German-Saxon word, that signifies a bell ; from whence we may have borrowed our modern word a clock." " This appellation also shows the end for which these towers were built—for belfries or steeples, wherein was hung a bell to call the people to religious worship. But the cavity or hollow place within being so narrow, we must conclude the bell must needs be small. Large bells are inventions of later times ; the towers, better to let out the sound, and to make the bell heard at a regular distance, have all of them towards their summit free openings or windows opposite to one another."

After all that has been said, popular conjecture connects these buildings with religious worship—to call the Monks from their cloisters to matins and other duties.

" This end, the calling the Friars, &c. to their acts of devotion, was sufficiently answered by such a bell as could be hung in a steeple of nine

134 *Apparent Continuance of fine Weather.*

feet in diameter. Where the cloisters were huts, the Monks would be content to answer the summons of a bell, not larger than that we now call a dinner bell. The pride of the wooden abbey was its bell and stone belfry." *Campbell's Strictures on Irish History*, p. 229.

I cannot express how grateful I feel for the delightful weather which has hitherto attended us, and which at present has the appearance of a continuance. In the sincere hope that you and home have not been denied an equal share of its charming, its salutary influence, I must bid you adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XII.

Ballymoney, August 21, 1813.

TWO miles from Antrim on the Randalstown road is Shanes Castle. The celebrity of the place led us to expect an ancient edifice that would tell the tales of time long past. In this we were disappointed. The house is of modern construction, the grounds about it flat, and though the timber which surrounds it is very fine, the soil is not rich. A striking feature of the place is said to be a terrace formed on arches of great extent by the side of the Lough; but as we had seen all Lough Neagh had to offer in point of interest or beauty from Antrim, our curiosity was not further excited, and we passed on under an impression that Fame had been lavish of her encomiums on Shanes Castle. The worth and hospitality of its possessors had at all times spread considerable lustre around it, and it is not less an excusable than a common usage to attach to a residence the deserved popularity of its owner.

A great difference is perceptible in the soil, cultivation, and cabins of Antrim, when compared with the county of Down. The banks of the Bann, or White River, passing as it does through a great extent of bog, have little to attract the attention in point of beauty.

Nothing can be more erroneous than the idea commonly entertained of an Irish bog by those who are unacquainted with the country. Bogs furnish not only fuel but food ; a great proportion of most of them is capable of cultivation, and of bearing very tolerable crops of grain. The most enviable site for a cabin is by the side of a highway adjoining to a bog. Cabins are found to extend along the roads for miles together when contiguous to a bog—whence with less labor a supply of fuel may be obtained by the cottiers, who have thus an opportunity of cultivating, at little expense, a part of them, and also of extending their efforts in the same way ; a disposition which seems to be an inheritance, and to increase as it descends from father to son. Little doubt can be entertained that by these means, in process of time, the whole may be reclaimed ; and when that shall be effected it is difficult to conjecture what will become of so redundant a population. Ireland

appears to me as exhibiting a strong resemblance to the rude northern nations, and a hasty approximation to the state of them, previous to the bursting forth of their people, and overwhelming the more southern parts of Europe. Were a million of the inhabitants to emigrate at this day, this number, though great, would scarcely make a perceptible void in Ireland. The population must be increasing in a most rapid manner, if we are to judge by the numerous cabins which were erecting, and the dilapidation or abandonment of so few of them.

We found the road much thronged for some miles before we reached the town, in consequence of its being market day at Ballymoney; as we proceeded, the crowd became so great, as to preclude all calculation of numbers. When we arrived at the principal street of the town, which is nearly half a mile in length, and of considerable breadth, it was overflowing full, notwithstanding a cross street more than half its size appeared to afford it some relief. As ill-luck on this occasion would have it, the inn was at its further extremity, and, formidable as was the attempt to force a passage through such a crowd, we were compelled to undertake it, at the hazard of being engaged in disputes and involved in difficulties; for no precaution of ours

could prevent our coming in contact with objects we wished to avoid, or of splashing and injuring the clothes, if not the persons, of many composing the multitude. Although moving at a foot's space, and with the greatest precaution on our part, their dress, by being repeatedly forced against the wheels, became dirtied: this inconvenience instead of producing ill humour, had the contrary effect of a laugh, and the sufferers laughed with the laughers. The same inconvenience must frequently have happened on market days, but we did not allow "their being used to it" to detract from our estimation of the extremely good humour with which they had endured the annoyance our passing produced.

The numerous instances, which in the last few days have occurred, afford ground for a dispassionate and fair appreciation of the character of the Irish; and have produced convictions on my mind, that a week ago I could on few authorities have credited. These have had their influence as antidotes against the illiberal national prejudices, which, without examination, we are too apt to admit. General calumnies are always unjust. We hear of individual wrongs, of collective violence; but the operating cause or causes of either are kept in the

back ground ; and whether these may arise from disrespect, or depraved notions of moral obligation, on the part of the people ; or from privations remediable by the government of the country, is seldom or ever made known, or offered in palliation of the errors or enormities with which the people are charged. Personal irritation, or private revenge, though unjustifiable, and highly inexcusable, might sometimes, no doubt, be offered in extenuation in the one case, while on the other, sufferings, to which they ought not to be exposed, from the petty tyranny of superiors, or a failure in the due administration of the laws, must be admitted as ample excuses for dissatisfaction ; and where the mass of a people are so, the probability is, they have at the bottom great cause for complaint.

“ When popular discontents have been very prevalent,” says Mr. Burke, “ it may be well affirmed and supported, that there has been generally something found amiss in the constitution or in the conduct of Government. The people have no interest in disorder. When they do wrong, it is their error, not their crime : but with the governing part of the state, it is far otherwise ; they certainly may act by ill design as well as by mistake.”

140 *Sale of Linen and Twine at Ballymoney.*

In refraining from the subject of the rebellion, the miseries of which are every where bleeding fresh in the recollection of all, I consult that course which is most to the advantage of both parties, and consign it to oblivion. To forget and forgive ought to be no less an earnest wish, than it is the imperious duty, of every sincere friend to Ireland.

The sale here of linen on market days is very extensive, often exceeding 5,000*l*. The market for swine is very considerable: the price of these animals had risen fifty per cent. from the destruction occasioned in the preceding year by the scarcity of potatoes. Ireland, it should seem, has always been famous for the number, if not for the beauty, of its native pigs. Giraldus Cambrensis declares, he never saw the same number of swine in any other country. The breed at present, apparently, is of very inferior description: the introduction of a better sort would certainly be highly beneficial to the agricultural interest.

Whilst our horses fed we determined on a visit to a Moravian establishment, at Grace-hill, a short two miles from the inn. Our walk was enlivened by the number of people returning home from market; some of whom, we were

informed, had come with their webs of linen cloth for sale, more than twenty miles, and were going back again, as joyous and alert as if their journey had but then commenced. The Irish in general are good walkers, and are able to endure much fatigue. As it is seldom that Moryson, whom I have before had occasion to quote, does not discover a most unjustifiable prejudice against the Irish, his testimony becomes doubly valuable when he speaks in their favor. "I have heard," says he, "some great warriors say, that in all the services which they had seen abroad in foreign countries, they never saw a more comely man than the Irishman, nor one who cometh on more bravely to his charge."

Their buoyancy of spirits makes light of sufferings which would sink many other people. This was exhibited in the general mirth—the joking and good humor, that prevailed among them : ridicule, without offence, is the forte of an Hibernian. Maria Theresa used to say, when complaints were made of the irregularities of the Irish in her service, that she "wished she could keep them shut up in a band-box till the eve of battle."

The Moravian village contains about four hundred persons of both sexes : it consists of four

142 *Visit a Moravian Establishment.*

streets, and is laid out with great taste. The church, which is a handsome building, is placed in the centre: every house has a garden attached to it. The profusion of flowers before their houses, and behind in their gardens, with the extreme neatness of the fences, produces an effect wonderfully impressive, and gives to the whole an air of enchantment. The establishment has the appearance of being very well regulated, as complete order is conspicuous in every part and department of it. What a delightful contrast does this form, to the indifference, neglect, and inattention of the higher to the lower orders, so prevalent in this country! Our guide was one of the first settlers, about fifty years ago. From him we learned that all the males of the society were brought up to some handicraft trade, while the females were enabled to support themselves by lace-making and needlework, in which they excel, and for which they are much celebrated. If they had no riches of which to boast, they were happily exempted from the miseries of poverty. They have two seminaries in great repute for the education of youth, where the children of respectable parents are confided to their care and instruction. The most interesting part of the association, is the community of unmarried females, consisting at present of about sixty. Their residence or con-

tinuance in the sisterhood is perfectly voluntary, and any one may retire from it at pleasure. In what manner the establishment is governed, I could not learn. Their apartments were elegantly clean: the dress of the females extremely simple, but, at the same time, neat. There was an air of feminine modesty and propriety in their countenances, which, though not beautiful, was highly prepossessing; accompanied by a delicacy of complexion (though most of them had dark expressive eyes), that seemed to indicate a want of health, not unlikely to arise from the heat of the rooms in which they work; yet gaiety and good humor were very conspicuous among them, and they appeared to be perfectly content and happy. The different societies of Moravians have similar institutions. Their religious persuasions, and the tenets they hold, have, I believe, much resemblance to those of the Lutherans.

We left this little republic much impressed in its favour, and disposed to think the lot of its members as enviable, if not more so, than that of mankind in general.

On our way to Grace-hill, we passed a number of afflicted individuals, who, as objects of

144 *Compassion and Charity of the lower Orders.*

alms, had taken stations (some of which were hutted) by the side of the road, to attract the notice and benevolence of passengers. Several even of those whose appearance denoted the scantiest means, in passing contributed their mite. As hospitality among the higher orders, so does charity among those in the humbler walks of life, rank high in the Irish catalogue of virtues. An universal opinion prevails among the latter, that whatever is bestowed for the relief of the wretched, will be restored four-fold. I will not, however, do them the injustice of attributing their compassion to selfish motives; I perceived no appearance of ostentation, no expectation of future remuneration, in their laudable acts of this description: for whatever may be the defects in the characters of Irishmen, want of feeling and kind-heartedness cannot be imputed to them. The store of humanity, however, must be possessed in abundance, to support the incessant claims which are here made upon it; and it may be questioned, whether the relief thus readily afforded, may not have the effect of increasing the number of supplicants.

On our return, the bustle of bartering the labor of individuals, for the supply of wants to their families had ceased: the streets were no

longer thronged, and the scene had materially changed, by a large proportion of the people having quitted the town, whose example, as we have fifteen miles to Balla Mona, we are anxious to follow. Adieu!

J. C. C.

LETTER XIII.

Balla Mona, August 21, 1819:

THE singular appearance of the mountains which approach Ballymoney, seemed to indicate the commencement of the Basaltic country. For ten miles we passed over a very high and poor surface, after which we descended into the bog of Culdee, deriving its name, as it is supposed, from a religious order of Culdees. In the Celtic, the word imports "the espoused of God:" its extent is very considerable, and comprises many thousand acres.

From the successful appearance of the recently made improvements, on several parts of the bog, little doubt can be entertained, that the whole might be brought under tillage. The principal means by which the crops at present are raised, are the ashes procured by the burning of its upper surface, which is unattended with any great labor. Round a space from six to ten feet in diameter, a trench of a foot deep, and of

the same width, is dug; the soil from which is laid on the adjoining surface of equal breadth, to dry; beyond this, another circle of sods is taken out, and laid to dry in the same manner; and thus the work proceeds, until the quantity dug, with that which is left undisturbed for a floor, is as much as can be properly burnt on the space in the centre. As soon as the sods are sufficiently dry, some are gathered together; the heap is set on fire; and additions are made of wet and dry sods, from time to time, so as to keep up a regular, moderate, and smothered fire.

In proportion to the attention paid to these particulars, is the husbandman rewarded by the quantity of potash he will procure, much of which, by a rapid combustion, would be volatilized and thrown into the air. The labor is greatly reduced by burning the sods in the centre; and though all are aware that a hasty flaming fire is disadvantageous to their interest, the reason of its being so is known to few, or, that it is to the vegetable alkali thus procured, they are principally indebted for the beneficial results of the practice.

This bog is parcelled out into farms, which are let on leases of lives, after the rate of twenty shillings per acre. I think there is no doubt of

excellent flax, generally speaking, being produced on the bogs; and possibly hemp might also be cultivated to advantage.

A very extraordinary state of indifference, even to their own interest, seems to pervade the proprietors of these vast tracts of bog, all of which would probably remain *in statu quo*; were it not for the overwhelming torrents of population which are forced over them, who, like drowning men, seize the sod and venerate the soil that saves their lives. It is the stimulus of dire necessity, not the encouragement of competent neighbours, that alone gives the impulse to this description of improvement.

On the first view of the possibility that so extended a cultivation may be effected, in a country abounding with the means, and where by far the greater proportion of the people are glad to drag on a daily existence merely to labor—and labor merely to exist!—to feel the toils of to-day must be the task of to-morrow—the mind becomes delighted with the animating hope, that the time is not far distant, when by these rural efforts all shall reap the comforts which constant employment to so glorious an end will furnish. Want of active employment, or in other words, apathy and idleness, engender

discontent—discontent, disorder and general distress. Gratifying as such an anticipation of good may be, yet reflection drops into the scale her ponderous weight, against the value of the theory suspended in the other, and shows that agriculture alone, unassisted by manufactures and commerce, is incapable of producing all the promised benefits. The labor of one individual in husbandry will provide food for six: hence it is evident that a limited number of the people can only thus be advantageously employed on the soil; and resort must be had, and surely not unavailingly, to the proprietors of the land—the capitalists in stock—to devise the means of giving fit and profitable employment to that portion of the community not required for agricultural purposes, by the introduction of manufacturing establishments, and the extension of commercial pursuits.

Without such auxiliary modes of engaging the national industry, an extension of the present system only would be delusory, and become the source of more widely-diffused streams of misery all over the country, by giving facilities and affording encouragement to augment the present superabundant population, which is not likely to be restrained but by the expedients of

trade and manufactures. These would soon operate as a check to a further increase of the people, by introducing artificial wants among them in food—in dress—in habitation—and the acquirement of those comforts, to which, as human, rational beings, they must be considered as entitled: but, while the potatoe alone shall continue to be the food of the great bulk of the people, I see no reason to doubt their present number will be doubled in thirty years, and consequently the wretchedness of the country proportionably increased.

However melancholy and discouraging these reflections may be, I fear they are but too well founded; yet as the evils which produce them are all of a moral nature, let us hope that time will teach to patriotism and opulence, that they are not irremediable.

A prevailing opinion of emigration, in the event of a peace with America, has taken place. Were there a prospect in any reasonable time of employment being found at home for these individuals, to whom well-founded hope is held out of bettering their condition abroad, I should concur in regretting the loss of a single British subject: but to retain them, merely to fill up

vacancies which casualty may occasion in the ranks of our armies, is, according to my feelings, revolting to every sense of humanity.

The exportation of linen has been estimated at the value of three millions sterling per annum; but it has decreased of late years; and the general opinion is, that the trade has been greatly injured by the encouragement given to German cloths. The use of the oxymuriatic acid in bleaching has certainly brought the Irish linen into great disrepute. Whether the practice is discontinued, or that the manufacturers are become more skilful in the application of it, I cannot decide; yet a more summary mode of treating flax, from the field to the loom, in which the chemical and unchemical processes it now undergoes might be dispensed with, is become a great desideratum to Ireland. Foreign flax-seed was supposed to be indispensably requisite in the cultivation of the crops; but lately, a great proportion of that sown in Ireland has been obtained from Yorkshire.

On our arrival at Balla Mona, we found the town in a great ferment, in consequence of one magistrate having granted permission for feats in horsemanship, the usual prelude to gambling; while, in his absence, a brother justice had issued

his interdiction, but not in time to prevent the assemblage of a great concourse of people from the country; attracted by the celebrity of the performers, and the fame of their "lucky lottery;" both as spectators and adventurers.

Want of respect for the law, and submission to its administration, are among the many culpable errors to which the Irish are addicted, under an impression that the laws forge the chains which the few impose on the many, instead of considering them, as they really are, a shield to the weak against the strong—a fatal delusion of the mind, arising, I much fear, from a want of due administration of the judicial powers; for who can expect to find a pure stream, which evidently flows through a channel of corruption? In England, the execution of the law is committed to the hands of the people: here, the authority of the police is vested in the military; for so impotent is the civil power, that the warrants of the magistrates are executed by the soldiers. This is so at variance with the British constitution, and so repugnant to English feelings, as to leave little doubt of the influence which such proceedings must have in extinguishing the regard and veneration of the people; whose happiness Government would wisely consult, by a more scrupulous attention

to the magistracy, and by devising means for rescuing the law (excepting in extreme cases) from military execution. Can it be supposed that the same respect would be shown to the distribution of justice in England, as is at present exhibited, were its mandates enforced at the point of the bayonet.

To put down the conjurer at length required a military force. Whether the pompous absurdity of marching out a body of men under arms, to combat a puppet-show occurred and recoiled as unfit, on the mind of the magistrate, or what other consideration operated, I know not; but he was induced to affect a political blindness to the open resistance of his authority, and the performance proceeded!

We had a petition from the damsel who attended us at the inn, that her absence might be excused for a short time: she had dreamt the night before, that some good luck was to attend her, and she was extremely anxious "to see what was to be seen, and to try her fortune." We readily waved our claims to her temporary services, and with our good wishes she departed. She had not been absent long, before she returned with one of the principal prizes, and a happy grateful countenance for not having miscalcu-

lated either on her dream, or her dependance on the fickle goddess. Should you smile at the credulity of this poor Irish lass, be pleased to recollect the thousands who annually calculate in the same way, and with no more pretensions, on the favor of the blind goddess, while they stake their money with higher odds against them. Let the defects in Dame Fortune's sight be ever so glaring, they cannot exceed the shortsightedness of her numerous votaries. You will as little question this, I trust, as the regard, respect, and esteem of

Yours,

J. C. C.

LETTER XIV.

Bally Castle, August 22, 1813.

IF I have hitherto in my letters disregarded the neat stock of the country, it has not arisen from inattention, but from inability to trace those I have seen, up to any distinct breed. The milch cows are a mixed race, sprung from long-horned ancestors, without either beauty or symmetry to recommend them. None of the white cows spoken of by Giraldus Cambrensis are now to be heard of. Their existence in Ireland is imputed to him as a fiction. I do not see what object was to be gained by it. White cattle still exist in the Highlands, and seem to have been amongst the most ancient breed, both in England and Scotland.

In the treaty made in 1642, between the Marquis of Ormond and the Commissioners authorized by the Council of Kilkenny, a sum of seven thousand five hundred pounds sterling was to be paid to King Charles the First in good beeves,

at thirty pounds the score. Four-and-twenty years afterwards the cheapness of Irish cattle became a complaint, and induced the English Parliament to sanction the rigorous and impolitic act for restraining the export of Irish cattle. It was in the debates on this subject, in the House of Lords, that the Duke of Buckingham declared that whoever was against the bill "had either an Irish interest, or an Irish understanding." A more glaring instance of the folly and injustice of England towards Ireland can hardly be produced, and shows the utter ignorance which prevailed, at the time, of the real interests of both kingdoms. As no fresh law was passed in Scotland, the intention of the promoters of the law was defeated.

As to sheep, I have seen but few; and those truly miserable creatures in a double sense; first, in their sorry appearance; and next, in the curtailment of the natural use of their limbs by shackles, which fasten their hinder with their fore legs, and prevent their escape from threatened dangers.

This practice is resorted to, I presume, in order to keep the animals within certain bounds; which the fences are insufficient to effect; or to oppose a barrier against any other sort of stock;

an inconvenience not less disadvantageous to the occupier of the lands, than it is a drawback to the beauty of the country. Hedges in tatters always, in my mind, bespeak inhabitants in rags.

Sunday, above all other days, exhibits the manners, while the religious observances and offices of a people develope their morals; and the passing traveller is enabled to collect evidence on which to ascertain the degree of civilization to which they may have attained.

The impressions on the present were very different to the emotions with which we were inspired on the preceding Sunday. The attendance on public worship, and the general regard to the decencies of the day in Scotland, are truly edifying: gratitude and humanity both conspire and assist in the due observance of the sabbath; for while the brute creation is allowed by man to rest, the incense of adoration is due from him to that omniscient unbounded presence, whose beneficence bestows all earthly benefits here, and encourages him to hope for more substantial and durable blessings hereafter! The Scottish peasant, though slow, cold, and phlegmatic, in the ordinary affairs of life, is active, warm, and zealous, in the discharge of his religious observances, which he conscien-

tiously feels he is bound to perform. He knows his duty, and discharges it : here, if known, it is neglected.

The necessity ought to be imperious to justify a breach of the sabbath. In the time of harvest, attended by uncertain sun-shine, and in a country so subject as this is to wet weather, occasions may arise to justify the husbandman in using every means—in availing himself of every opportunity, that may enable him to preserve the bounty which Providence had bestowed. But I am sorry to say, as we passed on, we observed many of the people laboring in the fields, inexcused from the violation of the sabbath by harvest work.

In Roman Catholic countries, after the services of the day are concluded, all the sacred duties are supposed to be finished, and the people are at liberty to pursue their private pleasures, or partake of public amusements.

When we consider how great is that proportion of mankind, who rise every day, with the exception of one in each week, to labor, in order to live—to whom, resting from such labor is partaking the greatest of luxuries—how must this indulgent day of rest be hailed and wel-

comed? How many of these laborious individuals have no other opportunity of even witnessing the presence of the glorious sun—of indulging in the absorption of his genial rays—of inhaling the pure revivifying air, by the wonted exercise of their limbs—of reciprocating in the tender intercourse of children—of near and dear relations and friends—of participating in the discharge of those natural claims on the heart, and the moderate pleasures to which their virtuous lives so fully entitle them—all of which can only be permitted and enjoyed by the return of this all-hallowed and delightful day! After the prescribed duties of the sabbath are religiously performed, I cannot censure, much less interdict, the application of those few hours of exemption from perpetual toil, to the honest gratification of feelings—the birth-right of a free people—as commendable in their nature as they are worthy of social beings; when partaken with decency, temperance, and moderation; especially by those whose lot, when compared with that of their superiors, commands on this occasion peculiar respect. On the other hand, I cannot approve of the sabbath's being made subservient to pleasures, capable of being equally well pursued on every less exceptionable day in the week. I should do great injustice to my own appreciation of this sacred day, were

160 *Presbyterians more opulent than Catholics.*

I to close these animadversions without expressing how much I feel the culpability of those individuals who, in disregarding the violation of it in themselves, compel the irreverence and profanation of it also in their dependants. By those who are the arbiters of their own time—who labor not to live—to whom the indulgence of rest becomes slavery—the gratification of pleasure satiety, and with whom every pursuit appals!—what excuse can be urged—what plea sufficient to insure a verdict of not guilty?

The Presbyterians appear to be more opulent than the Roman Catholics, if the respectability of their dress and habitations may be admitted as a fair criterion by which the judgment may be directed; they seem also a very orderly and regular set of people. In consequence of their chapel being under repair a large congregation was assembled in the burial-ground attached to it, whom we saw pursuing their devotions regardless of a heavy shower of rain which was falling at the moment we passed.

The distance from Balla Mona to this place is twelve miles, over an elevated ridge between two extensive plains, of which the bog of Culdee forms a very considerable part. No reason appears for its remaining in its present

state. Removing the obstructions to the water in its course through the Bann to the sea, and rendering that river navigable, would be attended with other great advantages beside those of draining and bringing into cultivation many thousand acres of profitable land, and effecting a communication between St. George's Channel and the great Western Ocean. If the means possessed by individual speculators in Ireland be unequal to so expensive an undertaking, the assistance of the state might possibly be advantageously directed to its accomplishment.

The whole of the country through which we this day passed is wretchedly poor and ill-cultivated, excepting in one small spot where the agent of a considerable proprietor has successfully applied his capital to productive labor; and has proved what might be done with a like disposition, and the same means, by the improved appearance of his grounds round his house and offices. Beyond this little domain all again was in a deplorable state—from some cottiers we learned the cause—the land could not be rented under thirty shillings per acre. This discouraged the attempts which might otherwise be made for its improvement, as it was not highly esteemed among them in the neighbourhood. We were answered by a pea-

162 *Planting Waste Lands much neglected.*

sant in the usual laconic manner :—" Plase your honor it will neither produce butter nor beef."

The most prominent feature in the landscape of to-day was the towering aspect of the mountain called Knocklaid: as we approached, it grew in importance; its elevation and base are both considerable. The sides of this mountain are cultivated to a great height; and I observed, with not less pleasure than surprise, very thriving plantations, though exposed to the uninterrupted blast of the western ocean. Ignorance alone can be offered as a legitimate excuse for the neglect of planting extensive wastes, as no expenditure in improvements of the soil is capable of making the return which wood produces, independent of its contributing to the health of the inhabitants and the picturesque beauty of the country.

Descending along the vale to Bally Castle, the land appeared rich and well enclosed.

Before our descent into Bally Castle, which we found considerable, we were gratified with a most magnificent view. The Scottish shore before us—below, the rocky iron-bound island of Rachlin—to the right, Knocklaid—and beyond it, Fair-head, one of the most northern

promontories in Ireland. This scene was not less sublime than beautiful.

Bally Castle is a small town, with a neat modern built church. The port, for the construction of which such a large sum of money was voted by the Irish parliament, has scarcely a vestige remaining of the works on which it was expended. How this has happened avails little at this moment to inquire—the object has vanished with the fabrics intended for its perpetuation. No doubt a great supply of coal was expected to have been obtained from the collieries.

We were indebted to — Read, Esq. the lessee of the coal works, for much civility and hospitality. His frankness and friendly manner, in pressing us to join a pleasant party, induced us to accept his invitation, and I have seldom passed a day more agreeably. A delightful old gentleman, whose residence was under Fairhead, and whose age exceeded fourscore, entertained us most highly by the recital of many legendary tales connected with Knocklaid, a local source remarkably rich in fabulous tradition.

The sublime features of nature in all climes,

and on all appropriate occasions, have had wonderful influence on the human mind, and have been made the scenes, no matter whether correctly or not, of splendid and heroic achievements by poets, and sometimes by the more grave recorders of the events of ages past. Multitudes of historical ballads of the ancient hereditary clans and poets are cited by Keating and O'Flaherty, amongst whom Coemannus and Mordudius are celebrated as the chief. All the compositions of these famous bards were in verse, and were therefore called psalters or sonnets.

Nations whose chief wealth consisted in cattle had much of their time unoccupied; their wants were few, and these were supplied with little thought for the morrow. The introduction of refinements into pastoral communities gave birth to multifarious ideas to invent means for an augmentation to the requisites of life possessed before, and gave a perfectly new character to most of the countries in Europe. Unfortunately for Ireland, the refinements adopted at court have not yet reached the cabin. Here man will be found in a very natural state. The predominant love of ease is sacrificed to nothing but necessity; and while such food as he is content to exist on can be procured, without much

interference with his desire to be at rest, he will be as happy as any human being can be supposed to be under such humiliating circumstances. Hence the Irish character has undergone little change, while the industry of the Scottish peasantry has highly contributed to the respectability of their order, and worked wonders on the face of their country.

Many among the former, as in ages past, may now feel the irksomeness of time: on some future occasion this may lead to the congregating of irresistible multitudes. Like the ancient hordes, they may resort to the same expedients to escape from the oppressive weight of this lassitude, and the present ignoble appropriation of their time.

The northern nations employed no small portion of their vacant hours in listening to, and learning, the legendary tales of their bards and minstrels, who became welcome guests under every roof: while they succeeded in rivetting the attention by their well-dressed tales of hapless lovers, or of well-fought fields in days of yore, they did not fail to create a powerful influence on the hopes and fears of their hearers, by being the known and accredited dispensers of praise or censure.

Ireland seems at one time to have abounded in bards. Gallant deeds in arms, or tales of love, formed the principal subjects of their poetry. Every age, and probably all succeeding bards, added embellishments to immortalize the constancy of their lovers or the fame of their heroes. Poetry, or fiction, however, like all other pursuits, needs the stimulus either of fame to sustain its reputation, or of profit as its reward. Uneducated credulity kept the former within their reach; but poverty, usurping the cabins of their disciples, taught them that the latter could no longer be expected. The profession of bard has consequently ceased—the vocation has passed into other hands, and is now become the privilege of garrulity and the pastime of old age.

From our entertaining old gentleman I learned, that during the winter it is a general custom for the neighbouring cottiers to assemble alternately at each other's cabins about the blazing hearth of wood procured from the bog, and preserved for such occasions. The females bring their spinning-wheels and stools, while the children and men complete the semi-circle on the floor; the oldest patriarch then takes the lead in narration, and is succeeded by his grey-headed juniors in turn. The “tale twice

told" loses no tittle of its force, or interest, but is listened to by all with delight—the tear of sympathy still flows, and the same glow of admiration, or indignant flame, still paints on the cheek the feelings of the heart. The applauses of the party excite enthusiasm in the oracle, while their full approbation of the present and former recitals ensures greater exertions on a future occasion. Thus vanity, if not ambition, may be discovered on the earthen floor of an Irish cabin, as well as on the boards of St. Stephen's—propelling the human heart with energies equally powerful, and expectations equally sanguine, though directed to objects as far inferior in magnitude as ants'-hills to the Andes. The storm will agitate the mountain lake as well as the boundless ocean! That admiration which the rising generation has witnessed will never be forgotten, while they, in their turn, become emulous of equal celebrity. I can conceive no group more interesting than one composed of ingenuous warm-hearted children of nature, thus giving scope to their genuine feelings. Here the painter might catch, in native purity, the expression of the soul, and present virtue to the world in all her uncontaminated loveliness.

Spencer, who visited Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as Secretary to Lord Gray de

Wilton, and who published a state of the country, gives the following account of Irish bards: "There are amongst the Irish a certain kind of people called bards, which are to them instead of poets, whose profession it is to set forth the praise or dispraise of men, in their poems or rhymes; the which are had in so high regard and estimation amongst them, that none dare displease them, for fear to run into reproach through their offences, and to be made infamous in the mouths of all men; for their verses are taken up with a general applause, and usually sung at all feasts and meetings, by certain other persons whose proper function that is; who also receive for the same great reward and reputation among them."

The acquirement of knowledge, and consequent improvement of taste, in the higher ranks of life, have abolished the profession of the bard. Their rude and marvellous stories are no longer calculated to please in elevated circles; but this degradation of the calling has not descended to the lower orders, whose passion for the tales of old times remains undiminished, though the opportunities of gratifying it do not so frequently occur.

The most interesting object to every state is

the general character of the people: a knowledge of this can alone lead the government to a fair appreciation of their morals and habits, which ought most seriously to engage the rulers in every country; for on this depends the general happiness or misery of the ruled.

The English traveller imbibes a most unfavorable opinion of Ireland, from the wretched state in which he beholds the habitations of the lower orders; the generality of which certainly appear unsuitable to the residence of human creatures. From the dilapidations without, he draws instant conclusions of accumulated misery within. The Irish peasant, however, though poor in what the world calls riches, possesses that in his cabin which the mines of Peru could not furnish. Let the feelings be restrained—let a dispassionate survey of the interior be taken, and the traveller will find in the possession of its inhabitants a warmth of heart—an overflowing of the kindest domestic affections, and of the purest joys of life: while he acknowledges that such sensibilities do honor to his species, he must become persuaded that man may yet be happy, though under privations of what in our ideas is essential even to the continuance of our existence.

When the threatening cloud affords the pea-

sant on the bog an excuse to avail himself of such shelter as his cabin can afford, that is the moment in which the inside of it should be viewed. The joy with which he is received by all evinces the kindness of the husband and father—the affection of his family; and while the elder children crowd round to embrace his knees, the younger ones extort the mother's help for blessings from his lips.

Most of the intelligent persons with whom I have conversed concur in opinion of the strong attachment which subsists in the Irish peasants' families. As a proof of the strength of their social affections, the following circumstance has been told me: A farmer had been summoned before a magistrate, on a charge of leading his cattle at night into a neighbour's field. The man, as is usual, attended with his wife; and when called on for his defence, he turned round to the complainant, and addressing him, declared he might as well have accused him "of beating his wife, which, had he done, he knew he could never have shown his face again." Thus it appears, whenever the feelings of mankind are touched to the quick, the heart will exhibit itself, and afford an insight into the real character.

Did not a full share of untutored affections

ensure domestic felicity to the Irish peasant, the cabin would, indeed, be a most deplorable abode! Destitute as it is of every sort of apparent comfort, an involuntary sigh commiserates their lot, while the domestic affection, harmony, and felicity, suppress that emotion, and inspire a hope that their privations, though rigorous, are not felt, or at least not in the degree which our compassion leads us to imagine.

The fidelity of the married woman in Ireland has never been doubted; but the same favorable opinion has not been entertained of the chastity of the single. These general imputations, I am assured, have no foundation, and that by them great injustice is done to the sex.

Instances of indiscretion among single women in the lower orders, are, I am assured, by no means frequent: when the consequences become apparent, their lovers seldom desert them. So far is prostitution from being tolerated in public opinion, or regarded with indifference by parents, such a circumstance is considered as the greatest disgrace and misfortune that can befall a family; while seduction, even by a person infinitely superior in rank to that of the unfortunate female, would be visited by the total loss of character in the estimation of all.

This, with the charge and expense of her infant, which is exclusively borne by herself, must be viewed as a heavy punishment for her departure from virtue.

Mr. Read was so obliging as to accompany us to his colliery. The field of coal is nearly two miles in length, and forming the segment of a circle; the broadest part is about seven hundred yards. The seam, or vein, is five feet thick, divided by many dikes or walls of basalt, which interrupt its spread, but make no change in its inclination or dip. The largest field of coal is about one hundred and fifty yards broad, and forms a trough, by dipping from north to south, and rising again from south to north. The most northern part of the coal, which is under Fair Cliff, has a red free-stone roof. This colliery is not subject to inflammable air, but is frequently inconvenienced by the choke-damp. Under the beach, the coal is not more than six feet below the level of the sea at high water. It is worked by slope drifts, as it has been found impracticable to sink shafts from the surface through the basalt rock, which here is its uniform roof, until it meets a dike about half a mile from the port, which changes the roof to a white free-stone. The basalt rock cuts off the coal, and precludes any extension of the field on

the land side; but in several places it has been worked under the sea. It is sold at fourteen shillings the ton of thirty-two Winchester bushels, and the country consumes the whole produce, excepting a few cargoes shipped for Dublin, on which a bounty is given. I sincerely wish the sales were more extensive, for the sake of the worthy and respectable lessee, Mr. Read, who obligingly showed us some original plans of the under-ground workings. I was surprised to see one of so early a date as the year 1725, and very much doubt if any are to be found at Newcastle prior to that year. This coal greatly resembles that of Campbell Town, and is described by Whitehurst. I could not ascertain in what year this colliery was first opened. The geologist here, and on the coast, would find much to engage his attention. The stratification is very curious, the troubles and dikes numerous, and of great extent and magnitude.

Mr. Read combines farming with his mining occupations. He sows wheat after a fallow or a crop of potatoes: this is succeeded by two crops of oats, the last of which is sown down with clover, cut the first year, and depastured the second. There is little occasion to attempt any description of the soil; for if it can support

such a system of exhaustion, year after year, it must be of admirable quality.

I must not be offended should you suspect I am trying if your patience or my perseverance can endure the longest. My only excuse is, that whilst I write I am more at home than abroad. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XV.

Port Rush, August 23, 1817.

OUR road from Bally Castle took us by the port, whence we climbed the hill, and commanded a very grand and extensive sea view.

The day was highly favorable, and so clear as to afford a distinct prospect of Islay, one of the Scottish western islands. Rachlin, and the bold promontory of Fair-head, forming a foreground to the immense expanse of sea and coast, which the eye embraced from different spots that arrested our progress; and while stationary, gave us an opportunity of indulging in the beauties of the strand below, and the towering magnificence of the opposite boundary. As we passed to the port, I must not omit mentioning our being surprised with a sight of about half an acre of turnips, the first we had seen since those I noticed at Hollywood.

On quitting the shore, we ascended and passed through a poor uncultivated district, the land

letting for six shillings per acre, and producing little grain. One cottier, indeed, told us that he paid "three pounds a-year for nine acres, in this outlandish country!" The poor fellow, with whom we entered into conversation, seemed to have a heart so full, that to have an opportunity of venting his troubles was to him a great relief. He said his cabin had been raised by his father some forty years ago; that times were sorely worse; that he was abridged of every privilege; and that a rent of four ten-pennies was now exacted for lime, stone, and sea-weed; which, small as it may appear to us, to him was a payment of great importance; besides which, his tithes were eight shillings per annum. Hopes had been held out to him of seeing his landlord, but hitherto he had been disappointed. From his justice and liberality the tenants on the estate had been led to expect some redress.

Many are the miseries in Ireland which spring from the owners thus absenting themselves from their property. The blame which is so generally, and often so justly, imputed to agents, ought however, in some cases, to attach to the landlords, whose inexcusable ignorance of their estates, and total neglect, not only of their own interests, but of the comfort and happiness of the tenantry,

occasion and perpetuate the numerous evils, not less to be lamented than reprobated. Desirous as an agent may be to use a discretionary power in tempering the rights of a principal, with benevolent feelings, these can scarcely be delegated: this is the prerogative of ownership, and it is much to be lamented that in Ireland it is so little exercised.

The appearance of the country altered much for the better as we entered the vale of Ballantray; and, as walking would enable us to reach Carrickarede by a nearer path than by passing Ballantray, I sent forward the carriage and horses. A youth, who had joined us while in conversation with his father, offered and was accepted as our guide to the salmon fishery.

Carrickarede is an object of considerable interest to all travellers. The bay is formed by a small island, separated from the main by a narrow strait. The opposite island, or rather rock, is about sixty yards broad, and three hundred in circumference, with a summit overhanging its base, at a perpendicular height of about one hundred and fifty, or two hundred, feet from the billows below. Over this frightful chasm is suspended a bridge, formed by two cables, reaching from shore to shore: these are lashed together in imitation of a ladder, and a plank is laid be-

tween them, over which, with the assistance of a hand-rope fixed at a proper height on the shore also, and reaching to the rock, the natives pass and repass without any apparent trepidation, although the height from the sea, and the tremulous motion of the bridge, make passing over it a most terrific attempt. At the moment I first caught a view of it, I had the extreme pain of seeing a man cross it with a child in his arms. Our guide, however, for his amusement, passed over it to the island; on which the fishermen have raised a hut, for their retreat and shelter in very bad weather. Use disarms this dangerous passage of all its terrors in the minds of those employed, who appeared to be insensible of the hazard they incurred.

The mode of taking salmon here is very curious. On the extreme brink of the rock, impending over the sea, scouts are seated, whose duty it is to watch the fish approaching along the shore: these are readily discerned, as the water is but about three fathoms in depth, and so pellucid that in bright weather they are perceptible at some distance, though they do not come near the surface. As soon as they are discovered, the scouts give notice to those stationed below in a boat, who have their nets ready to cast. The fish, in search for fresh water, keep close along the shore, on which, when

Terrific Path on the Edge of a Precipice. 179

taken, they are landed. Six persons are employed in this fishery, taking the perilous office of scout and that of fisherman by turns; and paying a rent of fifty pounds a-year. There are other fisheries of the same kind in the bay, but none so productive.

On our return to Ballantray, we pursued our way along the cliff, where the road was so near the edge of the precipice as to compel me to seek a less terrific path. I wanted the habit of disregarding the particular danger with which I felt myself threatened; and possibly the Carrickarede scouts, who unconcernedly sit on the elevated pinnacle of the rock, within a hair's breadth of destruction, would have felt equal apprehension on descending the shaft of a colliery, which custom had rendered familiar to us.

Appearances of prodigious, though remote, convulsions of nature were every where visible, as we passed the rocks; in the formation of which, the strata were seen lying confusedly in all directions.

Ballantray is a small village: the soil about it appeared to be good, by the luxuriance of the crops, which were ready for the sickle, though the hay harvest was not yet finished. The practice is here adopted of piking hay, after the

Scotch mode, by making the haycocks very large, and terminating the apex of their cones in a sharp point: several months are suffered occasionally to elapse before the hay is stacked; the consequence of which is, that it does not sufficiently ferment, and it is always soft. Good hay is rarely to be met with in Ireland, which must certainly arise from improper management.

Those delightful undulations, that variety of mountain and valley, which had given such peculiar beauty to the portion of the country we had seen, no longer attracted our attention. A regular, almost uninterrupted, and certainly uninteresting, slope from the hills to the sea was here presented to our observation until we reached the village of Lessenaugh.

Unfavourable as were the impressions which the general barrenness, the want of fences, and the rude cultivation of a few spots about the village, had made on our minds as we approached Lessenaugh, these were but preludes to the painful feelings which our further examination subjected us to experience on our arriving within the village itself. A character of such wretchedness was here discernible as to exceed any thing of the kind that we had yet encountered; and whilst it arrested our close

attention, it impelled a forcible desire to ascertain the extent of the too evident misery under which its forlorn inhabitants were doomed to exist.

On quitting the carriage, I followed a little boy whose curiosity had led him to take a view of us. Dirt and rags could not obscure the health and intelligence which his countenance displayed. He was hastening to announce to his parents the arrival of strangers, and reached the cabin a little before me. As I approached the door, the height of which did not exceed four feet and a half, I was met by the father, bending double to get out of his wretched abode.

In erecting himself he presented the figure of a man muscular, well-proportioned, and athletic. I was so much struck with his appearance that I involuntarily stepped back.

The gigantic figure, bare-headed before me, had a beard that would not have disgraced an ancient Israelite—he was without shoes or stockings—and almost a sans-culotte—with a coat, or rather a jacket, that appeared as if the first blast of wind would tear it to tatters. Though his garb was thus tattered, he had a manly commanding countenance. I asked permission to

see the inside of his cabin, to which I received his most courteous assent. On stooping to enter at the door I was stopped, and found that permission from another was necessary before I could be admitted. A pig, which was fastened to a stake driven into the floor with length of rope sufficient to permit him the enjoyment of sun and air, demanded some courtesy, which I showed him, and was suffered to enter. The wife was engaged in boiling thread; and by her side, near the fire, a lovely infant was sleeping, without any covering, on a bare board. Whether the fire gave additional glow to the countenance of the babe, or that Nature impressed on its unconscious cheek a blush that the lot of man should be exposed to such privations, I will not decide; but if the cause be referrible to the latter, it was in perfect unison with my own feelings. Two or three other children crowded round the mother: on their rosy countenances health seemed established in spite of filth and ragged garments. The dress of the poor woman was barely sufficient to satisfy decency. Her countenance bore the impression of a set melancholy tinged with an appearance of ill-health. The hovel, which did not exceed twelve or fifteen feet in length, and ten in breadth, was half obscured by smoke—chimney or window I saw none; the door served the various purposes of an inlet to light, and the outlet to smoke.

The furniture consisted of two stools, an iron pot, and a spinning-wheel—while a sack stuffed with straw, and a single blanket, laid on planks, served as a bed for the repose of the whole family. Need I attempt to describe my sensations? The statement alone cannot fail of conveying to a mind like yours an adequate idea of them—I could not long remain a witness to this acme of human misery. As I left the deplorable habitation, the mistress followed me to repeat her thanks for the trifle I had bestowed: this gave me an opportunity of observing her person more particularly. She was a tall figure, her countenance composed of interesting features, and with every appearance of having once been handsome.

Unwilling to quit the village without first satisfying myself whether what I had seen was a solitary instance, or a sample of its general state; or whether the extremity of poverty I had just beheld had arisen from peculiar providence, and want of management, in one wretched family; I went into an adjoining habitation, where I found a poor old woman of eighty, whose miserable existence was painfully continued by the maintenance of her granddaughter. Their condition, if possible, was more deplorable, and the scene more heart-

rending, than that of which I had just taken leave. I now became convinced that, like satiety in pleasure, the human heart can endure pain only to a certain extent. I had not courage to explore further, and became impatient to escape from the repetition of scenes too wretched for human nature to endure, and too multiplied to be within my power to relieve.

The passing of strangers, where there is so little thoroughfare, at all times attracts notice—our stopping created surprise. The whole population of the village assembled—curiosity the inducement. The first group encircling the carriage was composed of children, whose health and vivacity rendered them pleasing in spite of the repulsive state of their dirty persons and ragged apparel. The second circle was composed of young women, some of whom had considerable pretensions to beauty, in defiance of the robes by which they were shrouded—behind stood the elder branches of families, to note what occurred.

A survey of this assemblage produced as sudden a hesitancy in my ideas, as the meeting of two mighty waves, from whose conflict we observe a momentary calm arise. My heart, which had been agitated with an agonizing pity for the

calamitous situation in which I was about to leave these poor desponding creatures, to whom mortal existence appeared a grievous burden, became calmed by observing that no one of the numerous damsels present had neglected carefully to put up her hair in papillottes. Could it be possible, in a community where it had just appeared to me despair had so established its empire, that even the extinction of life might be hailed as a blessing, that personal vanity should have influence on any of its members? To what can this be ascribed? Can it be that hope, fondly nursed by a consciousness of attractive charms, diffuses her cheering beams, gilds the opening dawn of life, and promises that the future shall not disappoint! These were strong intimations, however, that every other social perception is here felt and shared by the hearts of the miserable, in alleviation of the wretchedness which they are doomed to endure.

Though somewhat consoled by so unexpected a display of honest pride, and the consequent reflections which it excited, yet my feelings could ill bear thus to contemplate the sufferings of my fellow-creatures and fellow-subjects, without sincerely pitying and sympathizing with their afflictions. Assuredly there must be some-

186 *Misery greatly increased by the Absentees.*

thing radically wrong in this country—humanity proclaims it, and appearances justify the assumption. Where is the proprietor of the place? the traveller exclaims, his presence would soon lighten the weight of misery that presses his dependants to the earth. Though pleasures and wealth from other sources render his interest here unworthy his thoughts, yet humanity could not fail to exert itself, and meliorate the condition of his dependants.—Alas! vain is the inquiry—unavailing the appeal: it belongs perhaps to some absentee whose utter ignorance of his property here, and complete indifference to the hapless condition of the peasantry on it, paralyzes all efforts of industry, blights the harvest of hope, and produces poverty and misery all over the domain. The waters of oblivion can never wash out the stains which the scenes of woe witnessed this day have impressed on my mind!

The occupier of the cabin I first visited said he paid a rent of twenty shillings a year for his miserable dwelling, and a few yards of ground behind it. As there were not any fences, he was obliged to lodge his pig with his family. When he could get work his wages were tenpence a day, but the greater part of the winter he could find no employment.

Were I to address myself to the munificence of the landed proprietors, whether resident in Ireland or absentees, and say, Why do you suffer such things? I should but betray my ignorance. Rather let me call on them to do justice to themselves—to their tenantry—to study and consult their own interest—to rescue the lives of those who repose on them from a state too calamitous for human existence, by attending to their own interest, and promoting the cultivation of their respective estates. Policy, as well as humanity, have powerful claims on their attention; and would they but condescend to the trouble of investigation only, the object would be half accomplished; as much of the wretchedness of the people is suffered because it is not properly seen. Doubtless the condition and happiness of man are every where observable to be principally dependant on his own exertions. But where his range is so limited that he has not the power of applying his persevering labor to the grateful soil, from causes which ought not to operate against him, he has a powerful demand on the consideration of those who hold the means, yet want the favourable disposition to promote his honest industrious inclinations. By consideration I beg not to be understood as soliciting the benevolence of superiors. Were the stream

188 *Profitable Labor should be encouraged.*

of charity to flow ever so abundantly, though it might produce some relief, it could effect no remedy. The ability to give can, by no possibility, be competent to supply the wants of a nation of unemployed people. Giving would but serve to aggravate the evil, which the power of earning can only remove. Profitable labor would soon teach knowledge—knowledge would multiply wants—and these would instantly be seen creating exertion, and inspiring a disposition to economy and provident care: thus might Lessenaugh be relieved from its distress, and all Ireland be taught industry and contentment.

Two miles beyond this miserable village, a guide-post directed us to the Giant's Causeway. The uncertainty of finding accommodations for our horses decided us on dispatching them to Bush Mills, at the distance of about a mile; and we set off on foot for the Causeway.

We had not proceeded far, before we were saluted by half a dozen guides, all offering their services. The difficulty of choice lay in whom to refuse, where the claims of poverty seemed so equally balanced. Two stout young men, in yeomanry uniforms, were selected. How far these military services are advantageous to the country I know not; but that the volunteer

clothing had contributed to the comfort of many individuals I can entertain no doubt. In our walk, I attempted to obtain from our guides their reason for not more actively serving their country at such a moment; but they were silent, and indisposed to the discussion of the question, or to give any reason for their preference of potatoes, and aversion from work. There surely must be some cause in operation, which disinclined these young men from entering the army, where their comforts would have been much advanced.

The first object of curiosity to which travellers are conducted is Port Corn. The access to it is somewhat difficult; the sight of it, however, amply compensates the trouble of descending the cliffs, and scrambling over the rocks. For a short distance, the opening that leads to the head of the cavern, which is said to be two hundred and forty yards in length, is low and narrow; but the entrance into it resembles a magnificent Saxon arch, sixty or seventy feet in height, and somewhat more in breadth. The cavern becomes narrower at the further extremity. Nearly about the centre, a rock, resting on the bottom, occupies about one half of the breadth.

The wind blowing strong and directly on the

190 *Wonders of the Causeway anticipated.*

shore, with a flowing tide, made the moment of our visit peculiarly favorable. The waves were impelled into the cavern with great impetuosity; and rushing forward, broke, with violence and the noise of thunder, on the rock in the centre; while, from agitation and concussion, the water was transformed into foam, and in that state whirled in to the extremity of the cavern. The sight was very imposing; and though our situation was unattended with danger, yet the impetuosity with which the waves approached us, and the roaring of the surf, made us recoil at every stroke of the sea, and precluded us from remaining longer, on account of the rapid accumulation of foam.

The impression made on our minds by this scene was calculated to inspire the most lofty ideas of the promised gratifications which awaited us.

Of the many wonderful productions of nature, the Giant's Causeway has long been esteemed one of the most inexplicable and astonishing—so nearly resembling, yet so infinitely surpassing, the most stupendous and curious works of art.

In descending to the sea-beach, we had an opportunity of examining the different strata; and in one instance discovered a thin black sub-

stance, resembling mineralized charcoal, lying between the layers of basalt. In addition to the other proofs of the volcanian origin of basalt, the presence of this substance seems to have decisive weight; yet, as the subject has been much controverted, it may not be improper to advert to the observations of Mr. Hodges, in his late Tour through India: that a cliff called Montages is wholly composed of basalt; and that under the cliff is a spacious cavern, which he thoroughly examined by the assistance of torches, and found that charcoal was imbedded in the solid substance of the stone, throughout the whole extent of the cavern.

The singular appearances accompanying the above columnar bodies, with respect to charcoal being imbedded in the substance of the stone, seemed to have been an effect produced at a time when the stone or mineral was liquefied by fire.

But, notwithstanding the preceding observations, doubt may nevertheless arise, from the circumstance that no crater, or other vestige of an extinguished volcano, is now to be traced in this neighbourhood. Whence then can have been produced such immense torrents, of which the remains are now spread over so great a part

of the north of Ireland? The same appearances extend towards the west; we therefore presume they are all composed of similar substances, as it is easy to observe a communication of the lava, from Port Rush to the Giant's Causeway, and thence to Fair-head—a distance nearly equal to fifteen miles.

Whether this theory, or that of the Neptunists, is best founded, I pretend not to judge. Probably both are entitled to credit, and that the wondrous effects produced may not solely and exclusively be imputable either to fire, or to water, but to the combined effects of both. Little doubt can be entertained that the present magnificent appearances were produced by some violent explosion, attended by so intense a degree of heat as to burn, fuse, or char, whatever matter came within reach of its volcanic powers. Water, indeed, may possibly have been the original cause—the generating agent of the explosion; whether from beneath the sea, or at an immense depth under the surface of land, now occupied by St. George's Channel—the consequence of such explosion—the admission of cold sea-water, rushing on an immense mass of heterogeneous bodies—indiscriminately and suddenly resolved into a fluid continuous fire, would necessarily generate various

new modifications, and all the phenomena, to which the advocates of either theory refer, in support of each hypothesis; or which the ingenious though puny chemistry of art endeavours to exhibit in proof, or in imitation, of the sublime laboratory of nature.

An accidental discovery by Sir James Hall in some measure accounts for the different appearances of basalt, which, when cooled rapidly, has the appearance of glass.

In the collieries near Ayr, basalt dikes in some instances separate the coal fields. The coal adjoining these dikes, to the extent of fifteen feet or more, is as completely charred as if done in an oven.

Below the beds of solid basalt here, are strata of a substance resembling the ore of iron; on which the operation of combustion seems very apparent.

Having pledged myself on no occasion to disguise any feeling or sentiment that should arise in my mind, though I hazard the loss of reputation as an admiring geologist, I must acknowledge I was disappointed in my first views of the renowned Causeway. Dr. John-

son's remark rose to my recollection, "that the Giant's Causeway might be worth seeing, but was not worth going to see." I had erroneously considered its magnitude to be equal to the wonders in its formation: in this, I own, I was disappointed; but I cannot describe the feelings of admiration excited by the examination of its structure, or the sentiments with which I was inspired, while I exclaimed—"Wonderful are the works of God."

On each side of the Causeway is a basalt range or wall, dipping to the north into the sea. It is a generally received opinion, that it extends in breadth as it thither advances; but its component parts are there much broken. One of the peculiarities of basalt is, that its dikes or walls intersect other strata, without causing any alteration in their dip or rise. The greatest breadth of the Causeway, at low water-mark, is between twenty and thirty yards; the length from thence one hundred and twenty; but to the spot where it penetrates the shore the base of the columns are a foot and a half in diameter, and from twenty to thirty feet in height.

The columnar stratification, as seen at Plas-
ket, and in various parts of the coast, are in

different strata, separated by basalt, in a rude state, and by a red substance resembling iron ore. The most elevated columns are the smallest in diameter: those of which the mass consists are sometimes octagonal, sometimes heptagonal, but generally formed with three or nine sides, fitted with such exactness, that the point of a knife can scarcely be introduced between them. By attention, irregular and square columns are to be found, as these generally form the interior of the structure.

Admiration is still more powerfully excited, by observing the curious manner in which the stones are articulated, fitting into each other, like a ball and socket, or the vertebræ of the back-bone. Reflection augments the astonishment produced by a more critical examination of the Causeway: the more the mind contemplates this wonderful effort of nature, the more astonishing it appears.

The Island of Staffa has long been distinguished for its columnar strata. Basaltic columns have also been observed on the south side of Cader Idris; and have long been known in Germany, in France, and in Italy.

On quitting the Giant's Causeway we climbed

the skrew, no very easy task, and the dry weather contributed to make the undertaking more difficult; as, in many parts, it was so slippery, I felt much indebted to the assistance of our guides. We at length gained the summit, and found that we had a mile to Plasket.

The columnar strata are to be traced a great way into the interior of the country. The most magnificent specimen is said to be at Fair-head, where they are represented as thirty-six feet in circumference, and two hundred feet in height,

The works of nature produce nothing, I believe, equal, or to be even compared, with the magic power of vision, baffling all description at Plasket, which is of a perfectly different character to the Giant's Causeway; the interest occasioned by which is greatly promoted by reflection. The sight here confounds, and leaves the mind unable to comprehend what it has in its contemplation; I was some time before my astonishment permitted the formation of any distinct notion of what presented itself for my consideration. After contemplating this stupendous mass for some time, I likened it to a huge colossal temple; but the more I dwelt upon its extraordinary appearance, the stronger

were its illusions ; and every faculty of the invention was occupied in combining the labor of myriads of hands, and of hundreds of ages, to raise an edifice, whose magnificence and splendor should be worthy the Omniscient, Omnipotent Architect of the universe. While the powers of recollection remain, no period to which my life may be extended will obliterate the sublimity and beauty which nature here displays ; and which, as the pencil or the graver can faintly imitate, description must wholly fail.

The accommodations for refreshment at Plasket, after such a contemplative feast, were so very humble that we proceeded on about two miles to Bush Mills, where we found them very tolerable. The town is small, but it seems to be in a thriving state. In passing through the street, I observed a school : as it was the first which we had noticed, I determined to pay it a visit. The number of scholars was about sixty children, from the very lowest orders of the people. The master was well disposed to favor us with a specimen of their progress ; but their provincial accent was so strong, that it was with great difficulty the sense of what they read could be collected. Unwilling to have it supposed that this defect in his pupils originated

with him, the master stated that the children had acquired their barbarous accent from an old woman who had been their previous instructress. The performance, on the whole, was creditable; and it was with much pleasure I learned that it was the general wish of parents to have their children instructed; as the very poorest, I was assured, willingly spared a portion of their scanty earnings for this valuable purpose, which, in time, must produce its effect. Dr. Johnson, in his *Tour to the Hebrides*, says, "Whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses, whatever makes the past, the distant, and the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings." A school, I was glad to hear, was erecting by Mr. Atkinson in the village, for teaching on the Lancastrian plan.

On our return to the inn, we made an acquaintance of the apothecary of the place, apparently a sensible intelligent man; who gave us to understand that the sale of drugs was far beyond the demand for medicines, and formed the principal part of his business.

Our time would not permit us to visit Glenculce Castle, about three miles from Bush Mills, although in our road to this place. Here are

the ruins of a very extensive and considerable structure, which appears to have been formerly a place of great consideration.

The dignified impressions created by the objects of this day will make some pause necessary to bring the mind down to the level of common occurrences; but under no influences can mine be forgetful of the esteem and regard with which I am now compelled to say, Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XVI.

Port Rush, August 25, 1813.

MY mind could never have been impressed with any just notion of the immensity of Nature's powers, but for the wondrous scenes contemplated yesterday; all subordinate objects, however interesting before, became reduced and seen in a pigmy-like state; and were, for some time, considered by me as scarce worthy of observation. To this influence on my mind is to be ascribed the inattention, in my last, to the surface of the country over which we passed in our way hither from Bush Mills; but which, on reflection, is highly deserving of notice.

A little beyond Glenluce Castle, which derives much consequence by its being partly erected on a projecting rock, is the farm of Mr. Hunt, whose crops greatly invited our attention. This gentleman holds a considerable extent of land, under the Countess of An-

Want of Quickset or Whitethorn Hedges. 201

trim ; on which is situate the former residence of the family.

On our visit to him this morning, we did not perceive that he pursued a system differing from that in common practice, which is to take as many white crops as the soil with profit will produce ; justifying an observation two hundred years ago, of the Irish being great ploughers, but little spenders of corn. The appearances here forcibly impressed us, that were the management equal to the goodness of the land, Mr. Hunt would find abundant employ for the threshing mill which he has lately erected on a good construction. The diminutive occupations and farming establishments must, however, prevent threshing mills from becoming general. We could not help lamenting the want of quickset hedges, the introduction and care of which would much improve this part of the sea coast.

Port Rush is a small neat place, with some comfortable cottages for the accommodation of sea bathers ; the rocks about it are romantic, and show the convulsions to which, probably, they owe their formation. " The strand at Port Rush," observes Whitehurst, " exhibits an awful wreck of the terraqueous globe, consisting altogether of immense masses of black

lava; so extremely replete with bladder holes, and so void of extraneous matter, that it perfectly resembles the scoria of iron, and therefore leaves not the least doubt of its being a volcanic production. The bladder holes in the lava are in part filled up with zeolite, a substance rarely found in England." The western shores of Derry and Donnegal appear from Port Rush to be bold and alpine.

Our kind friend Dr. Richardson, to whom the curious are indebted for his researches amid the accumulation of wonders which pervade the Giant's Causeway, as well as the celebrity which the Fiorin grass has obtained among agriculturists, received us with true Irish hospitality. Zealous and warm-hearted in all his pursuits, he enters with such ardency and exaltation of ideas into whatever he undertakes, that the most cautious and phlegmatic can scarcely withhold approbation, or avoid becoming his disciples. Here were a few acres of fiorin; and though they were much overrun with other grasses, a favourable idea was entertained of the crop which was cutting for soiling. The horses appeared to be very fond of it, and were in good condition.

Mr. M'Naughton, of Beardiske, is one of Dr. Richardson's firm fiorin pupils, and has a consider-

able breadth of that grass on a peat soil, which he first pares and burns, cleaning it by these means of all weeds, and obtaining a valuable top dressing by the ashes for the surface, after being trenched with the spade. Top dressings, or water, are requisite to ensure weighty crops, which are much injured by the intrusion of other grasses, an evil scarcely admitting of a remedy: especially in meadows, which near this place are full of fiorin, and might with some labor be made good specimens of that herbage. The soil in the neighbourhood being strong, the farmers have recourse to sea sand, and many were seen leading it into the fields; one man was driving a Scotch cart and an Irish car, he admitted without hesitation that the cart carried twice the quantity. Should this practical conviction become general, the maintenance of a considerable number of farming horses would be saved.

The nominal cheapness of labor, on this and on other occasions, accounts for its profuse application.

The shovel, which is the implement generally used in this part of Ireland for digging in all soils, is mounted with a shaft or handle about

four feet in length, precluding in the use of it the necessity for bending the back: this I was amused to hear offered as an apology for the preference of it; as the working with the spade gave the laborers a stoop in their gait, disqualifying them from making soldiers. The weight lifted by the shovel, by frequently making the knee a fulcrum for raising it, does not in general exceed five pounds, while in a much shorter space of time the garden spade lifts fifteen; an English laborer, accustomed to the spade, would perform the business of three of these workmen with their shovels. When the coal shovel of England is used in filling, there are some men who can fill a waggon of seventy-two Winchester bushels in half an hour. The weight of coal thus lifted every time is about thirty pounds; those accustomed to the work fill ten waggons each, for a common day's work.

Admitting that proper tools were put into the hands of this peasantry, the price of labor would not be augmented, while much time would be saved to their employers. The general condition of the laborious orders by such an arrangement could not, however, be meliorated, as it would necessarily increase the

number of them out of employ. An actual advance in the wages of labor can alone afford them relief; and were it not that the people of Ireland are content to exist on potatoes, this must have been conceded on the land becoming trebled in its value, and a rise in the same proportion, in the rest of the immediate requisites of their existence.

A want of gradation in the scale of society—the existence of the high and the low—the rich and the poor only, in any great community, must be fatal to its general interests, and destructive of the happiness of the individuals of which it is composed. Those who with perfect unconcern are constantly looking down from the eminence of wealth, misconceive the size of the objects beneath them, which poverty has depressed, while those who are looking up with painful solicitude perceive indistinctly what is too far elevated for their dispassionate comprehension; a want of estimation in one class begets a total indifference, if not a smothered aversion, in the other. This is a most dangerous suppression of feeling, a suffocated volcano, that wants but a spark to operate its eruption. Yet is it not such a calamity as to be without its preventative and antidote—sti-

206 *Conduct of Higher to the Lower Orders.*

mulating to industry by liberally rewarding productive labor, with consideration and kindness from the higher, would inspire respect and attachment in the lower orders. As a general wish seems to pervade the upper ranks that the situation of their dependants should be improved, and as a want of kind-heartedness can on no occasion be imputed to the Irish, the attempt once made with sincerity, and continued with activity, could not fail of producing the happy effects so important to the national prosperity.

Trifling as may appear the circumstance, and unimportant as from habit it may seem, yet the customary address of superiors to their inferiors should be made more agreeable to their feelings; for while it assumes an air of kindness, it is sometimes uttered in a style so contemptuous as to shock the feelings of Englishmen. A people without weight or consideration in national opinion may yet be not insensible of their individual pretensions, or disinclined to attempt the resumption of their rights, whenever a fit opportunity for the employment of their physical force may occur. In their present state, like flies on the lower portion of the periphery of a wheel, any impulse

or agitation must be an elevation to them; no permanent tranquillity can therefore be reckoned on for the country, because no change for the worse can happen to the people: whose apprehension of failing is at this moment, it may be feared, the only cause of their quiescence.

This state of things is not new, or to be referred to recent causes; for it is capable of being traced to the first invasion of the English, and has attained its present formidable magnitude out of circumstances which by impolitic and improvident arrangements have proved a material source of weakness to the empire, and an accumulation of distress to these miserable inhabitants.

It has been a question with some, whether an extension of the English poor laws to Ireland might not greatly relieve and highly benefit the lower classes—God forbid the attempt should be made! Any one whose attention has been duly called to the operation of the poor laws in England, cannot but be assured that the individual miseries of human existence have increased there in the precise ratio to the burdens imposed on the community by those enactments.

208 *Intemperance unfrequent in genteel Societies.*

Within the last thirty years, the amount of poor's rates has been more than doubled, while the sufferings of the laboring classes, within the same period, are increased in a still greater proportion. The shame of pauperism has been extinguished; while care, economy, and provident management, have been abandoned. Dependence on superiors destroys those qualities in character, that make inferiors respectable in their own estimation, and useful to the state; the evil is proceeding with rapid strides, and unless a remedy can be devised, three fourths of the population of England will become bankrupts in morals as well as in their means for subsistence. I must acknowledge this is being sadly prophetic; and though I sincerely hope it may not be so, yet I much apprehend the prediction is too well founded.

Supercilious self-complacency, or cold indifference, are incompatible with the warm and generous feelings of the Irish; and I am also most happy to learn that those scenes of intemperance, which formerly were a disgrace to the island, no longer exist in genteel societies, and are now unfrequently met with even in those of subordinate descriptions.

In what quarter of the globe, or in what di-

vision of that quarter, has not fashion a commanding influence?

Its operations, assisted by vanity, will always be found the strongest, where the mind is the least occupied on objects of substantial utility. Expensive equipage and show are as much coveted, or possibly more so, in Ireland, than in England; and the ruinous consequences as much, or more to be lamented; from an indisposition to the practice of keeping accounts, and making economical arrangements. The Dutch have a saying, that "no one is ever ruined who keeps good accounts;" here, however, there is no leisure for such a drowsy appropriation of time—the charms of the present moment far outweigh all other considerations, and especially those, which, by possibility, might induce unpleasant observations. This prevailing habit of discarding thought, in some degree accounts for the light-hearted cheerfulness of temper which so generally distinguishes the upper orders.

Could human joys be fairly suspended in the balance of reason, a certain portion of the world would be grievously mortified in finding their unsubstantial pleasures, directed by folly, weigh

210 *Futility of human Enjoyments.*

less than a feather, when opposed to common sense. Our pursuits, and our estimation of them, are too frequently found to be at variance with sound discretion. Ever yours, adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XVII.

Newton Limavady, Aug. 26, 1813.

THE proper hour for starting, indispensable for comfortable travelling, ill accords with the general habits of the country. The practice of early rising, though so highly conducive to health, is confined to few. On parting the preceding night, we took leave of our kind hosts, though not without repeated solicitations to visit them at Clonfeckle, near Moys, on our return northward; when we should have an opportunity of beholding the child of favorite adoption, florin, in full perfection; and by seeing hay-making in October, convince ourselves that our friend's confederate, Boreas, was as potent an ally in that month as is the sun himself in June.

In the distance of five miles from Port Rush to Coleraine, there was little worthy of notice till we reached the neighbourhood of the town, when we lamented to see some admirable crops of oats suffering materially by the absence of the reapers. The situation of Coleraine, and the sur-

212 *Salmon Fishery of great Celebrity.*

rounding scenery, is very fine. The principal street, and a square leading to the river, are handsome. The river Bann is here a noble stream, and is navigable from the bridge to the sea. A salmon fishery, of great celebrity, is about two miles up the river : the walk thither by its side, which is much ornamented by a number of neat houses, is beautiful, though the fall of the water disappointed my expectation ; the scenery is evidently inferior to its fame, and is also much injured by an erection in the vicinity of a large manufactory.

The salmon fishery is esteemed to be one of the most considerable in Ireland, and is reported to be rented at fifteen hundred pounds a year. Many hundreds of salmon are frequently taken at a draught. The produce is usually conveyed in fast sailing vessels to Liverpool.

The colour of the soil near Coleraine, which we had here an opportunity of seeing, seems to indicate, says Mr. Whitehurst, “ that a vast torrent of lava has flowed from the north of Ireland southward.”

On our return we took a shorter road, which led us through the potatoe grounds, let in small patches to the poor people of the town. In addi-

tion to a payment as rent, after the rate of five pounds per acre, these poor folks have above a mile to lead their manure, and take back their produce. As the potatoes are cultivated in lazy beds, the expense of the crop cannot be under ten pounds an acre; while the weight of it does not exceed twelve or fifteen hundred stone; taking the average at one thousand three hundred and fifty stone, the potatoes will cost about three pence per stone, although they were then selling in the market at two pence per stone under that value. As a proof of the little estimation in which time and labor are held, we found three young women who had been occupied the greater part of the morning in digging up about six stone of potatoes; two were conveying them home; the third had charge of the shovel. We inquired if it would not be cheaper to purchase than to have so much trouble in raising their potatoes? To which they replied, "It certainly would in the present year, but what might be the consequence in the next?"

We understood that at spinning they could not earn more than four pence a day. Even at the doors of the poorest cabins great attention appeared to be paid to the increase of the muck heap, by the accumulation of weeds,

214 *Cottiers proud of their Muck Heap.*

scrapings of the roads, and whatever else could assist its bulk and its fermentation ; the injury sustained on the escape of which, by evaporation, is well understood and duly prevented ; the pride of the cottier being centred in the magnitude and management of his muck heap. The observation of Lord Kames is as applicable to the Irish as to the Scottish mode of placing their middings, as their muck heaps are called, before their doors. On being asked the reason of having such nuisances in the front of their houses, his Lordship replied, " The Scotch are a vain people ; they like to make a display of their wealth."

We paid a visit to a small farm of Mr. M'Cawsland, the collector : he is a very successful cultivator of mangel-wurzel, and has a few acres which are very promising, though the mode of culture has been a little mistaken.

Manual labor, which is commonly but ten pence a day, and in harvest time double that sum, is considered cheaper than work done by the plough.

The dress of the women seemed well adapted to their work in the fields ; they wear net petticoats, the manufacture of the place, which

are elastic, sit close, and are no impediment to exertion. Very painful feelings are excited by the number of deplorable objects which present themselves on the entrance of every town ; and were their importunities as clamorously enforced as in our own country, the inconvenience would be intolerable ; but here they seem to rest the whole of their dependance on the appeal which their misery makes to the heart ; and unless they perceive their wretchedness makes some impression, they are always silent.

From Coleraine hither the distance is twelve miles ; for the first few of which the country appeared to be under a tolerably good system of culture, and the cabins in good order ; after which, we travelled over a very wild mountainous district ; but as the soil was apparently superior to much we had seen in cultivation, why it should remain in so neglected a state we could not divine. On reaching the summit of the hill, we obtained a fine view of Lough Foyle, and the well-wooded valley of Newton Limavady. Ireland, in the consideration of the traveller, has no greater want than that of wood ; and that which makes its absence the more to be lamented is, that there is no part of the empire in which it seems to thrive better.

218 *Impracticability of seeing every Thing.*

the object which induced our journey, or the time to which the completion of it is limited. Should we be reproached with want of taste, or commendable curiosity, we must rest our defence on the impracticability of our seeing all where there is so much deserving of notice. We, however, as we proceed by day-light, have no excuse for neglecting any thing which we ought to see, lest we subject ourselves to the reproachful inconvenience of our countryman, who, on finding he had passed the *Pont de Gard* in the dark, after travelling on fifty miles, retraced his steps for the purpose of seeing this famous bridge and aqueduct.

We spent a most delightful evening here with the family connexions of the friends whom we had just left. May I be pardoned in alluding to a trifling occurrence, which had nearly, however, proved to have serious consequences. Agreeably to my habit of opening my bed-room window at night, in the act of taking out the fastening, the upper sash fell, and my fingers became so completely secured, that, being ashamed to call for assistance, I was some minutes before I could extricate them, with less injury than, from the pain I endured, I had reason to expect. As some years may

elapse before the luxury of sash weights and lines may preclude the recurrence of a similar disaster, it is but charitable to put one's friends on their guard against such accidents.

Possibly you may think yourself in *left-handed* luck; for had the mishap befallen the fingers of my right hand, you would, probably, for some days at least, have been reprieved from my prolixity. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XVIII.

Londonderry, Aug. 26, 1813.

OUR distance hither was thirteen miles: the vale through which we passed is extensive, and flat towards the coast. Lough Foyle, and its cultivated shores, add much to the interest of the drive, many parts of which are strikingly beautiful. The village of Ballykelly is very neat; and the church, which has recently been rebuilt, is a handsome edifice. On the margin of Lough Foyle is Wentworth House, the seat of the Hon. J. Beresford: it is surrounded by extensive woods, and appears to be a sumptuous residence.

The farming buildings are more abundant here than we had previously seen: the size of the farms in general exceeds one hundred acres. About forty shillings an acre is the rent now paid; though in the year 1774, Mr. A. Young states it at about one-third of that sum. On each farm are settled a number of cottiers, to whom small portions of the land are sub-set by

the tenant, the rent of which is defrayed by their labor on his farm.

The poor cottier is thus obliged to pay exorbitantly for his potatoe-ground and the site of his cabin; but these are not all the disadvantages he is compelled to suffer.

The few necessaries he requires are supplied by his employer: the best prices are demanded and paid for the worst commodities; and though he may have well-grounded apprehensions of being over-charged, he has no power of controlling or checking his account, which is seldom adjusted more than once a-year. Should he even be fairly dealt with, suspicion and dissatisfaction are the natural consequences of such a running account, the balance of which is never known till the day of reckoning. Much is forgotten, and hope misleads the judgment as to the result. Credit is ever fallacious; and when applied to the immediate wants of life, increases the too common disregard to care and economy: nothing is so injurious to the lower orders as the neglect of prompt payment, and the power to incur debts.

There appear to be many new cottages rearing from the ground, and large tracts reclaim-

ing from the bog—certain indications of an increasing population.

This part of the country formerly imported grain: within the last two years a considerable quantity of wheat has been exported; though the husbandry cannot yet by any means be esteemed good or profitable. Potatoes and a little oat-cake being the staple food of the people, most of the wheat produced is destined for the support of distant individuals. Within a few years the growth of wheat has greatly increased in the north of Ireland: in general large districts are now under the cultivation of it, which heretofore were considered wholly unfit for its production.

The oats which may be required for home consumption will bear no proportion to the quantity of wheat that will be exported.

By the side of a neat cottage, about two miles from Derry, we saw an acre or two of Swedish and common turnips: in the present existing state of agriculture here, such a sight was highly gratifying.

Derry was founded by Sir Henry Dockwray, in the beginning of the seventeenth century.

In the rebellion of 1606, it was surprised; and Sir George Powlett, the governor, was murdered with his whole garrison. Three years afterwards, King James the First granted to the companies of the city of London land to the amount of two hundred and ten thousand acres, on condition of their fortifying Derry and Coleraine; from which circumstance the former takes its present name of Londonderry. The view of it from the opposite side of the Foyle is very grand, covering as it does the steep bank rising from this noble expanse of water. The cathedral, occupying the summit of the hill, is a commanding object; and few towns I have ever seen can boast a more beautiful situation.

The bridge of wood over the river is one thousand and eighty feet in length, and is said to have cost in its construction upwards of eleven thousand pounds. The banks of the Foyle are very bold, both above and below the town, and are ornamented by many handsome residences.

Ships of six hundred tons burden, on spring tides, can load or unload their cargoes at the quays. The appearance which the houses make, with the regularity of the streets (though the acclivity renders the access to the upper town somewhat inconvenient), and their clean-

224 *Fortifications in a perfect State.*

liness, prepossess the traveller much in favor of the town.

The walls of the fortifications, which in circumference exceed a mile, are in a perfect state; and the views from them at different points are so beautiful, as to induce us to walk round them twice.

The cathedral, a large massy building, is kept in good order, and is so far pleasing, although subordinate in the style of its architecture. The palace, a large, modern, handsome edifice, is opposite to it. The space between them has lately been purchased for the erection of a Sessions House; but where the whole is on so grand a scale, it is much to be regretted that this plot of ground is not laid entirely open, to connect the Bishop's residence with the cathedral.

The fish-market is abundantly and cheaply supplied. In this respect the Irish can no longer be subject to the reproachful observations of Moryson. "Ireland hath in all parts pleasant rivers, safe and long havens, and no less frequented lakes of great extent, yielding great plenty of fish, and the sea on all sides yields like plentie of fish, as salmonds, oysters, (which are

preferred before the English), and shell-fish, with all other kinds of sea-fish; so as the Irish might in all parts have abundance of excellent sea and fresh-water fish; if the fishe-men were not so possessed with the natural fault of slothfulness: as no hope of gaine, scarcely the power of authoritie, can in many places make them come out of their houses to put to sea. Hence it is that in many places they use Scots for fishe-men; and they, together with the English, make profit of the inhabitants' sluggishness; and no doubt, if the Irish men were industrious in fishing, they might export salt and dried fish with great gaine."

The barracks, which are also on the banks of the river, are extensive. There is something, however, painful to reflecting minds, in the unceasing presence of a military force. Scarcely a village is entered without a detachment being obtruded on the traveller. For the tranquil possession of our own, or when justifiable retaliation requires us to enter on foreign countries, armies no doubt, to a certain extent, are necessary; but when they are spread over the face of a nation, for the purpose of executing the laws, or of protecting or enforcing the payment of revenues, the laurels thus acquired must be

226 *Mendicants suffered in the Lobby of the Inn.*

considered by the community whence they are torn, but as decorations of weeping willow.

The milk and butter sellers have here a simple contrivance for supplying their customers. The kegs and a box for butter are fixed on two poles attached to the back of a horse, sledge fashion; with which they either ascend or descend the hill with little or no inconvenience.

The assizes and races draw a great concourse of people to Derry, which has occasioned the erection of a very spacious inn, where a singular custom obtains. A number of poor mendicants are by turns permitted to take their stations in the vestibule or lobby of the house for a certain time. Two or three changes of these wretched objects took place while we stopped. The endless recurrence of these deplorable subjects might reasonably be supposed to have the effect of deadening, if not of destroying, the best sympathies of our nature—those of charity, arising purely from the sensibility of the heart, unimpelled either by duty or ostentation.

One can scarcely believe that casual, indiscriminate charity under this roof, can be the effect

Cruelties inflicted in Earl Tyrone's Rebellion. 227

of sympathy: be the motive, however, what it may, it does honor to a people who, with a never-ceasing demand on the stream of their benevolence, feel no diminution of its current.

The policy of James the First towards Ireland does him great honor, and in justice and in wisdom far exceeded that of his predecessors.

It is impossible to reflect on the conduct of Elizabeth towards this country, without feelings of horror and detestation. The cruelties inflicted on the people, during the rebellion of Hugh Earl of Tyrone, in the last year of her reign, are scarcely to be paralleled.

Moryson, when speaking of it in the province of Leinster, says, "It seemed incredible that so barbarous inhabitants, the ground be so manured, the fields so orderly fenced, the towns so frequently inhabited, and the highways and paths so well beaten, as the Lord Deputy here found them."

This was the state in which Lord Mountjoy found the country; but the picture drawn by the same author of the condition in which it was left at the conclusion of the war, is so horrible and offensive to our nature, that we can

only hope it was produced by the pencil of exaggerated prejudice. "Now because I have often made mention of destroying rebels, come; and using all means to famish them, let me by two or three examples show the miserable state to which the rebels were thrown thereby: six of their chieftains, Sir Richard Moryson and others, commanders of the forces, sent against Brian M'Art; assured on their return homewards, they saw a most horrible spectacle of three children—(whereof the eldest was not above two years old) eating and knawing with their teeth the entrails of their dead mother, upon whose flesh they had fed for twenty days past; and having eaten up from the feet upwards to the bare bones, roasting it continually by a slow fire, were now become to the eating of the said entrails, in like sort roasted, yet not divided from the body, being as yet raw.

"Formerly mention has been made in the Lord Deputy's letters, of carcasses scattered in many places; and no doubt the former was so great, as the rebel soldiers taking all the common people had to feed upon, and hardly leaving them any thing (so as they besides fed not only upon haws, kites, and unsavory birds of prey, but on horse-flesh, and other things unfit for man's feeding). The common sort of the

rebels were driven to unspeakable extremities, beyond the record of past histories that ever I did find on that head, the ample relation whereof were an infinite task; yet will I not pass it over without relating some few instances. Captain Trevor, and many other gentlemen lying in Newry, can witness the same. Old women of these parts used to make a fire on the fields, and divers little children driving out the cattle in cold mornings, and comeing hither to warm them, were by them surprised, killed, and eaten, which at last was discovered—a great girl breaking from them by strength of body; and Captain Trevor sending out soldiers to know the truth, they found the children's skulls and bones, and apprehended the old women, who were executed for the fact."

No spectacle it seems was more frequent in the ditches of towns, especially in those of wasted countries, than to see multitudes of these poor people lying dead, with their mouths all coloured green, by eating nettles, docks, and other things they could weed up above ground.

Nothing can better illustrate the policy of James the First, than by contrasting it with the conduct of his predecessor. The principles of one carrying desolation and destruction through

the kingdom, as the means of subduing the independence of the people, and compelling obedience to the tenets of her faith: the other, endeavoring to overcome their prejudices, by conferring benefits, and diffusing comfort and happiness.

The calamities endured by the inhabitants of Derry, under their intrepid leader, the Rev. George Walker, during the siege in 1689, afford a glorious example of perseverance. What a contrast is exhibited between their heroic virtue, and the pusillanimity and meanness of James the Second, who, incapable of appreciating what was great, has left the record of a barbarity behind him, almost without example. This King's letter to his General, commenting with severity on his having suffered some of the half-famished inhabitants of the city to quit it, and directing him in future to drive them back, is still preserved in the University of Dublin.

The exercise of power for the exclusive benefit of mankind, rarely fails in the end to excite gratitude and admiration. It is fit the abuse of it should meet in its reward a due share of execration. How enviable must the feelings of that monarch be, who, in the possession of the means, has the desire of bestowing lasting obli-

gations to all around him, and perpetuating them to ages yet unborn.

I can imagine no earthly paradise in which the human heart could so rationally luxuriate! Even he who but plants a single oak, confers a favor on generations not yet in existence; but how much more valuable a benefactor is that individual who shall bestow lasting obligations on the present, as well as on future times? A school for the education of one hundred and fifty children on Dr. Bell's system, and on the most liberal plan, has here been projected and established by the indefatigable exertions of the Right Reverend the Bishop of Derry. The building for this establishment is substantial, handsome, and commodious, without any thing superfluous. One hundred and twenty-one of the children taught, are of the Catholic persuasion.

It will be a proud pre-eminence for Great Britain to maintain among the civilized nations of the world, if in twenty years from the present period, few shall be found, out of her many millions, destitute of the ability to perceive and perform their duty towards their God and their neighbour. Once endowed with the power of convincing their own minds, that their interest

282 *Females little instructed in Domestic Matters.*

here, and their happiness hereafter, are wholly dependant on the careful performance of these duties—that to be good is to be happy; with a full knowledge and conviction of the truths of the gospel, the general character of the people must become exalted, and most important changes may reasonably be expected in the manners, habits, and conduct of the laborious classes throughout the empire.

In the numerous cabins I have visited, I have been much concerned to see so little attention paid to the instruction of females in domestic concerns, not having on any occasion seen the mistress of a family occupied with her needle. What good reason can be offered for the neglect of making the rags of which their clothes are composed somewhat more decent and tidy? I can imagine none, excepting that of a Manks farmer, who, on being reproached for suffering so many weeds on his land, replied, “The attempt would have been hopeless, there were so many of them.”

The infirmary is a spacious, handsome edifice, and is said to be under very good regulations.

There are here two public charities which demand peculiar notice. The one is a reposi-

tory for work: the other, an institution for small loans of money to poor people.

Whatever work is brought to the repository is purchased, without exposure of the names of the industrious parties by whom it was done, affording by this mode an opportunity to the diligent or laborious, of augmenting their income by their own exertions, without incurring obligations to any one. To those who would suffer rather than supplicate, what a delightful resource is this repository!

The misery that is sedulously concealed is often more entitled to compassion, than bodily afflictions presented to public commiseration without compunction.

I am so extremely pleased with the Charitable Loan Society, that I cannot omit subjoining the particulars of this valuable institution.

“ Londonderry Charitable Loan was founded in January, 1809, the fund being established by the produce of two charity sermons; the first by the Lord Bishop of Derry, in the cathedral, at which was collected upwards of two hundred and fifty pounds; the second, in the Roman Catholic chapel, in consequence of which, up-

wards of one hundred pounds was contributed. This institution lends out money, interest free, in sums of two, three, four, or five pounds, to be repaid by weekly instalments of six-pence in each pound; the repayments commencing on the Thursday after payment of the sum granted is made, and discharging the whole loan in forty weeks.

“ The Board of Governors meets on the first Tuesday of each month, to receive, consider, and reply to applications made in due form; and on the second Tuesday of each month, to pay the sums ordered to be lent out, which, on notes being perfected for the amount, and made payable to the President (the Lord Bishop of Derry), is done by means of checks drawn on the Treasurer to the fund, by the Register.

“ An account is kept of all applications, together with the observations and replies of the Board of Governors.

“ Accounts too are kept of the sums lent, the numbers in the families thereby relieved, the securities given, the purposes for which loans are granted, and the repayments made; and there is also a book of registry of all the meetings and proceedings of the Governors.

“ The persons recommending others being in all cases the securities for them, are uniformly obliged, if any default in repayment occurs, to pay up the sum remaining due to the fund without delay.

“ There is a pass-book kept between the clerk, who receives the weekly instalments, and the Treasurer, to whom they are immediately handed over.

“ The sums lent, the repayments made, and the number of persons, with that of the individuals in their families relieved, during the first nine months of the institution, have been as follow :—

Dates of Loans.	Sums.	Repayments.	No. of Persons.	No. in Families.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1809. February ..	253 0 0	— — —	78	381
March	88 0 0	30 10 6	34	180
April	75 0 0	42 0 0	27	117
May	31 0 0	60 19 6	10	38
June	24 0 0	59 17 0	9	38
July	13 0 0	53 5 6	3	21
August	12 0 0	57 3 0	3	9
September..	13 0 0	49 2 0	3	12
October	20 0 0	48 0 6	5	10
	£ 529 0 0	£ 400 18 0	172	806

Balance in Treasurer's hands, October, 1809, £237 18s. 11d.

“ The apparent irregularity in the repayments of the several months, is owing to the sums being therein included, which have either,

because of the default in the weekly instalments, been called in, or have been voluntarily paid by persons whose improved circumstances enabled them to do so.

“ The decrease in the sums latterly lent out, being the consequence of fewer applications for loans, testifies the effectual relief already extended by this institution : and whilst it is satisfactory to be assured that the fund has not hitherto sustained any diminution, it must be highly gratifying to perceive that the balance in the Treasurer’s hands is likely to prove abundantly competent to meet the increased demands which must arise, should the great number of persons at the first relieved (on their discharging the loans made to them) renew their applications for assistance.

“ Co-operative, though not connected with this institution, a Charitable Repository has been established (under the auspices of the Hon. Mrs. Wm. Knox), and is now open at Derry ; which, in addition to the benefits such institutions generally confer on the industrious and ingenious, it is hoped will enable many persons of that description to apply to advantage those means with which the Charitable Loan is ready to supply them.

1

"London Derry, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1809.

"The charitable loan has been since increased by a legacy of one hundred pounds; and two hundred pounds collected at the charity sermon, preached by Dr. Black, at the meeting-house."

There is also a subscription for furnishing Bibles at a cheap rate to the poor, while the amount of contributions for general purposes of charity exceeds seven hundred pounds a year. Few towns can boast of more consideration or humane attention to the necessities, the welfare, and interest of the lower orders of society, than London Derry; would to God, the inhabitants of every considerable town in the empire were actuated by the same praiseworthy motives, and evinced the same benevolent and patriotic zeal for the happiness of their fellow creatures, and the consequent prosperity of the country. I have yet to introduce to your notice an undertaking here of great magnitude and public utility:—the erection of a school on the plan of that at Westminster. Public schools are greatly wanted in Ireland. The youth of the higher classes are in a great measure compelled to be sent for education to England, where the expense of public schools is severely felt by ourselves, and must consequently fall more

seriously on pupils from Ireland. The cost, however, is but a part of the evil. The habits acquired by an English education contribute to estrange the Irish youths from their native country.

Spencer, in his View of Ireland, to which I have before had occasion to refer, makes the following observations.

“ But learning, and bringing up in liberal sciences, will not come of itself, but must be drawn on by strict laws and ordinances; and therefore it were well that such an act was ordained, that all the sons of lords, gentlemen, and such others as are able to bring them up to learning, should be trained up therein from their childhood; and for that end every parish should be forced to have a settled school-master, adjoining unto the parish church, to be the more in view, which should bring up the children in their first elements of letters; and that in every county and baronie they should have an able school-master, who should instruct them in the grammar, and in the principles of science, to whom they should be obliged to send their youth to be disciplined, whereby they would in a short time grow up to that civil conversation.”

The patriotic exertions of the Bishop of Derry, in prevailing with the respective corporate companies of the city of London to contribute towards the establishment of the school, have been crowned with ample success, not only in their liberality with which the undertaking has been patronized, but by their having taken upon them the payment of the annual salaries to the several masters.

The building is a very superb one, and when the whole plan is completed, it will remain for ages a noble monument to record the public spirit of the present times.

Preparations are already made for the master, and a certain number of students, who will here be prepared for the University of Dublin. An exhibition will be granted to a limited number in aid of their studies. The "Institution for the Formation of National Schools" has also contributed in a handsome manner from their funds; yet with all these extraneous aids, this great national object could not have been accomplished, without the munificence of the Bishop; who has promoted the undertaking by many thousand pounds from his private purse;—and more patriotically his noble revenue could not have been expended!

240 *Praise due to the Projectors and Supporters.*

The motives which influence the actions of mankind may on some occasions be questioned; but heartless indeed must be that individual, who could detract an atom of the praise due to the projectors and supporters of so important and valuable an undertaking.

The various objects which have here demanded my attention, and which have afforded me such gratification, will I fear, in the perusal of my observations on them, have intruded too much on your valuable time. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XIX.

Faun, August 28, 1813.

WE reached this charming place yesterday in good time: the distance is only seven Irish miles, but the road is hilly. Till we arrived on the borders of Lough Swilly, the country presented nothing interesting. The upper part of the Lough possesses a richness and softness of character that strongly resemble our finest lake scenery; I could almost have considered myself on the banks of Windermere. The hills which border on the lake are generally cultivated to their summits, and behind them is a chain of mountains extending into the county of Donegal. With the addition of more wood, Lough Swilly would rival those prospects which are most celebrated for romantic beauty.

The northern boundary of the island of Inch, opposite to this place, is high and bold; the southern extremity flat and rich; it is estimated to contain two thousand acres; the soil is very

fertile; and the hill on the opposite side of the Lough is clothed with delightful verdure.

A frigate at anchor, and a number of fishing boats under sail, gave great life to the scene. The situation of Buncranagh is highly beautiful; it is a small fishing town, and has also a linen manufactory.

The taking of herrings in Lough Swilly is one of the most considerable fisheries in Ireland, and often continues into the month of January: but there did not appear to be any erections for curing the fish on the spot.

The west side of the Lough is less cultivated; but the hills are covered with a verdure, for which this country in all ages has been so justly celebrated.

The anchorage in the Lough is good, but the approach at night dangerous, for want of lights. The melancholy loss of Captain Parkinson, his whole crew, and frigate, is still a subject of deep regret.

On our return from Buncranagh, we inspected the Bishop's farm. His Lordship has been a

most successful cultivator of fiorin. A meadow under the walls of Derry, which we visited yesterday, was a prodigious fine specimen of the luxuriance to which, by cultivation, this herbage may be brought; the stolones, or runners, were full six feet in length, and so profuse and strong, that walking over them resembled the treading on a bed of rushes. There was a luxuriance in this crop far exceeding any thing of the sort I had yet seen; the soil indeed is in itself excellent, and the surface was irrigated with the waste water of the town. It had produced eight tons of hay per acre the preceding year, which sold for upwards of forty guineas. The mangel-wurzel is also here cultivated to a considerable extent. The leaves are stripped off, and given to the cattle. From an experiment made by the Bishop, the weight of the tops was calculated to be fifteen tons per acre; and it was expected that the leaves might be pulled a second time, of which I entertain some doubt. The ground from which early potatoes are procured is afterwards planted with mangel-wurzel; if this practice answer, it will be attended with great advantage to the cottier, who may raise food for his pig after an early crop for his family, and thus economize his store of potatoes. From these lands under a good system of management, three thousand

tons of potatoes are said to be obtained from the Irish—equal to a produce of six hundred bushels from the English acre; which, even with the most liberal application of manure, is a large return. The practice of soiling milch cows has been introduced, and followed here with great success.

Faun, by a number of judicious alterations and additions, has been converted by his Lordship into a comfortable summer residence; for nothing can be more delightfully pleasant—the views from it are beautiful, and highly picturesque.

Admiral Heath is a near neighbour of the Bishop, and a spirited agriculturist. The extent of his farm is not great, but his management is good.

The oak is the pride—the boast of Britain; with which, as a concomitant part, do we identify our inimitable tars. There is a sublimity and grandeur in the character of the one truly analogous to that of the other. Fashion and the habits of the world amalgamate distinctions, and destroy all originality of personal qualities in the bulk of society. The seaman alone, characteristic of the element he professes and braves, at one

moment is susceptible of impetuosity, which, like the storm, is terrific and irresistible—in the next his sensibility and kindness are as captivating as the soft breeze on the bosom of the unruffled ocean! Such a mixture seldom fails of producing that due influence on others, which is daily experienced by the worthy Admiral—unbounded hospitality to his friends, and kindness exercised to all, command the respect of his equals, and inspire gratitude and attachment in his dependants. He personally superintends the management, and assists in many of the operations on his farm; which are principally performed by the spade. On my remarking that much of the labor might be done more cheaply by the plough, the Admiral replied, “I believe it might;—but then, Sir, what would become of all these poor people? I am better satisfied in seeing them daily employed—happy and comfortable, than I should at putting a few more pounds yearly in my pocket.” These are channels which communicate so directly and instantaneously with the heart, as to “double the bliss through the tear in the eye.”—If philanthropy can make a contented mortal—here he dwells!

Admiral Heath has taken great pains in propagating the oat with which I met at Port Patrick; he was so obliging as to present me

240 *Considerable Spirit for Rural Improvement.*

with a small quantity, which I shall cultivate with great care, in the hope of being able to disseminate it hereafter with advantage to my neighbours, under the name of the Heath oat.

Wheat is but a recent production in this part of the country; the specimens, however, which I saw of it were very good. It is reported that rice was sown in Ireland in 1695. "I suppose," says Ledwick, "this was a mistake for rye; but in looking at Garvas Markham's farewell to husbandry, I saw rice was raised in England about a century ago, but not commonly. At the very time it failed in Ireland, the French sowed much of it; but, through prejudice or improper management, it did not succeed; as it is an aquatic plant, it might have grown well in our moist climate."

From what I could learn, I have reason to believe a considerable spirit for improvement prevails in this country, from the manifest exertions of several gentlemen farmers of high repute. The rent given for land near Derry greatly surprised me: the arable lets for four or five pounds, but the meadow yielded a rent of ten pounds, per acre.

A curious account of the husbandry of Londonderry was published about a century ago,

by the Archbishop of Dublin. He states that there was little wheat grown, and that of very inferior quality; the soil being considered as unsuitable to its production. Potatoes remained three or four years in the ground, reproducing a crop, which at the best was a very deficient one. Lime was procured by burning the sea shells. The application of them in an unburnt state arose from accident. A poor curate destitute of the means for burning the sea shells which he had collected, more with a view to remove an evidence of his poverty, than in any hope of benefit, spread them on his ground. The success which attended the experiment occasioned surprise, and ensured a rapid and general adoption of the practice.

The improvements made since the period of which the Archbishop treats are undoubtedly very considerable; and whilst we smile at the very subordinate state of agriculture at that time, may we not on reasonable ground expect that equal progress will at least be made in this century as in the last?

In this neighbourhood there is a quarry of fluted stone, the cornices of which are so exact that, on seeing some of it in a chimney piece, I took it for a work of art.

I was so much pleased and occupied with the noble establishments at Derry, that I did not advert to its trade. It has a great export of linen, butter, and grain, to Liverpool, with some American and Baltic commerce. The importation of coals from Liverpool and Cumberland exceeds fourteen thousand tons per annum, and is yearly increasing: the price of the former is thirty-six shillings, that of the latter twenty-eight shillings, per ton. Peat costs about five shillings a ton. A small family consumes one hundred and thirty kishes, equal to about twenty-five tons; which, when brought from any distance, is dearer than coals.

It will require some effort to quit a place possessing such powerful attractions—but proceed we must to-morrow great as may be the inducements to remain; these can never be effaced from my memory, or the pleasing recollections of Faun, either as to place or persons. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XX.

Raphoe, Aug. 29, 1813.

WE had to retrace four miles of the road until we came to the head of the Lough, when we turned to the right, and passed over a very hilly country. From various points we had an interesting view of the south end of the island, which is highly cultivated. The extensive prospects of the Lough, and the Alpine boundary of the Donegal mountains, were frequently and advantageously presented to our observation.

We passed through a village, where the church, the kirk, and catholic chapel, are congregated. We happened to arrive as the different flocks were assembling: this incident created no small curiosity in us to observe the difference of character in the respective congregations. The presbyterians, whose features bore a strong resemblance to the Scotch, had all the external marks of competence and comfort. The dress of the catholics, who were the most numerous, was decent, but not costly; I

250 Church, Kirk, and Catholic Chapel, together.

observed but one instance of extreme poverty, that of a poor boy without shoes and stockings. The women of the presbyterian persuasion wore hats; the catholic females, according to the invariable custom, were without any covering on their head, excepting a linen or muslin cap. The bells of the established church were rung, apparently in vain—for not a single individual did we see enter the doors; and as far as we could judge, the witty address of the Dean of St. Patrick might on this occasion have been very appropriate.

Our distance hither, without having any opportunity of feeding our horses, was twenty miles. The country through which we passed is poor, the land letting for twenty shillings per acre only; and the population, comparatively speaking, not abundant; this accounted for the people being apparently in better circumstances, as the laborers were not more than could find constant employment. We were invited into the cabin of a farmer who rented about twenty-five acres: he told us that his present crop consisted of one acre of flax, one of potatoes, five of oats, four of barley, and somewhat more than eight of pasture. His rent one pound per acre, taxes three pounds, and tithes two pounds four shillings and eight

A Family of Eleven Persons in one Cabin. 231

pence. The tithe of agistment was abolished by a vote of the Irish Commons. It would have been a happy circumstance if, at the same time, all tithes had been extinguished on a fair and liberal principle. The cabin was divided into three apartments; a sitting room, one for sleeping in, and a third for lumber. The family, consisting of eleven persons, had three beds only for the accommodation of them all—several of the children were grown up. This spectacle presented a melancholy instance of the misery consequent on a redundant population; two thirds of this family were super-numeraries, consuming the productive labor of the rest. Few services, or situations, are to be found for the unmarried of either sex, and what can be procured are to be had only in towns; the labour of the country being no more than can be performed by the married cottiers. From this circumstance the attention of the sexes, from the first dawn of maturity, is directed to the acquiring a settlement for themselves. A cabin is to be raised and roofed; the bog affords them space for this purpose and that of their potatoe ground; or else they climb the mountain, where, in several instances, by counting the ascending range of cabins, a tolerably correct computation might be formed

of the generations from its first settlement. The size of the cabin is in proportion to the means possessed for rearing it ; while the necessary appendages for an establishment are so few, as to oppose no impediment to matrimony. In some instances a father lets off a portion of his farm to his son : but such is the increase of human beings in many parts, and such are the demands for situations on which to establish themselves, that few, having the power, refuse to let off small parcels of land to cottiers. The desire of obtaining a few acres of land is so great, that almost any terms, however exorbitant, are acceded to by the youthful parties, who, being rich in hope, and ignorant of the difficulties they will have to encounter, do not discover their folly until their distress is irremediable. The rents of these small occupations are regulated, as I have before observed, by the payments which can be exacted, not by what, in fair dealing, ought to be demanded. This system, when considered as a general, a national one, is a hydra-headed evil, fraught with consequences of a most calamitous nature. Among these must be reckoned the famine inseparable from a failure of the potatoe crop. Can it be called a happy ignorance, which removes from the view of so large a community all apprehen

sion of the danger which surrounds the individual?

In these considerations may be found the fundamental error and evil, the cause of the principal grievances with which the country is afflicted; and, what is more to be lamented, every day augments the general calamity, and every night closes in without hearing the suggestion of any means for its reduction. The difficulty is undoubtedly great; but let its present magnitude be what it may, to-morrow it will still be greater.

Were the lands to be thrown into profitably large farms, independently of the capital requisite to be in the possession of the occupier, a great expenditure on the part of the proprietor would necessarily be incurred in buildings, &c. to the manifest reduction, not augmentation, of his income. But what would become of the many families which, under such an arrangement, must be dispossessed of their homes and their holdings? It is not easy to conceive the heart-breakings that must attend so great a change in their condition; pangs that could not be assuaged by any prospective benefit capable of being shown to the present occupiers, or future promise of advantage to

254 *Information as to Meadows and Hay*

their posterity. Formidable as this obstacle may be, yet, as I mentioned in a former letter, it is of a moral nature, and consequently admits of removal.

Many of the meadows we have seen this day abound so much with florin, that I am persuaded, with little labor, they might be rendered exclusively redundant of that herbage.

Wishing to obtain some information respecting the value and method of treating their meadows, I was induced to stop at a very decent cabin. The proprietor was about eighty years of age, and had, by great industry and care in his early days, been enabled to purchase some life leases, which, when bought, were of trifling value. His length of years, and change of times, had made him "passing rich." He informed me, with great satisfaction, that he had settled two sons in stone houses, about a mile from him. After patiently hearing his story, he proceeded to answer my questions. The meadows, he said, had been mown, time out of mind, for hay, and had never failed of producing good crops. The hay was such as the bog always produced, but he knew nothing about florin. His cabin was comfortable;—he lamented his dame was not at home, adding,

she was a thrifty woman, and the best rearer of poultry in the country; abundant proof of which was exhibited in the number of turkeys and hens sitting in their nests all over the house. The practice of bringing up poultry seemed also generally attended to by the cottiers in this district. In return for his communications, the good old man felt entitled to inquire into the motives which brought us into Ireland. To him whose long life had been spent on the spot where first he drew his breath, and whose whole mind and exertions had unceasingly been directed to the favourite object of multiplying his means, it appeared incomprehensible that time should be sacrificed, and money expended, for mere curiosity only. We "must certainly have some other object in view;" though I repeatedly assured him to the contrary; and at length we were compelled to part with an apparent impression on his mind, that his civility had been ill requited.

As we passed by the edges and sides of the bog, we saw the practice of burning for the ashes carried on to a great extent. Though the country is very high, yet the husbandry is bad, and the crops consequently late. We saw some fields of oats in a perfectly green state.

256 *Description of the Inn at Raphoe.*

The deanery house at Raphoe, about a mile from the town, which is a very paltry place, is an extensive building, with much apparent comfort about it. The cathedral is but a mean edifice. The palace is large, and the demesne well wooded.

The exterior appearance of our inn did not indicate much in its favor. Our first reception prepared us for what we might be led to expect. As we were about to enter the door, we were stopped by a monstrous pig. This personage has considerable pretensions to justify the familiarity he is pleased to exercise in the cabin; the rent of which his presence is said to pay, while his progressive increase constitutes his owner's sinking fund; by means of which, on a future day, he is to discharge most important demands.

Where there is no resource but by a toll of courtesy to a pig for entering his sty, happy are those who have the ready coin of good humour to satisfy such a demand, and make light of imaginary ills. If such things cannot be dispensed with, the frequented path should never be quitted. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXI.

Donegal, August 30, 1813.

THE town of Raphoe appears to have little to engage the attention : had the accommodations there been better, still we had not any object to induce a protracted stay. The spinning of linen yarn is carried on to some extent, and much flax is grown in the neighbourhood. On walking round the town, rather late in the evening, the general decorum and decency which prevailed were pleasing ; we did not see or hear any thing in the public houses that indicated the least inebriety or want of good order. There is a considerable endowment for a school, which has some reputation.

On climbing the hill, at the end of the town, this morning, we had a most extensive view of the vale towards Derry ; whence a more direct road passes hither through a very beautiful country. The husbandry on this side of Raphoe is tolerably well conducted.

Mr. Montgomery's seat, at Convoys, has the

258 *Extensive Wastes should be planted.*

appearance of a fine place, surrounded with extensive woods. Cultivation is carried to a considerable height on the sides of the hills; the use of lime is very general, and the rent of the land from forty to sixty shillings per acre. On quitting the village of Convoy, we got into a wild country, with a view of one still more alpine before us.

There are two distinct causes whence the mind derives infinite satisfaction in exploring a new country. The one is that of beholding all its resources made available, and the surface under a good system of cultivation; the other, is in estimating the improvements of which it may appear to be capable. Thousands of the neglected acres we have already seen might be advantageously appropriated to the growth of wood. In a circuit of one hundred and forty Irish miles, we have not met with a single experiment of modern planting, sufficiently important to entitle the individual to a record of his name as a planter.

I cannot describe to you the pleasure I felt on the first glance of Mr. Stewart's plantations at Tyrehallam. This gentleman has clothed the sides of an extensive range of hills, including many hundred acres, with plantations

of young trees, which had a general appearance of being in a thriving state. I much regretted I had no means of introduction to Mr. Stewart, with whose valuable improvements I should have been delighted in an opportunity of becoming better acquainted. As we passed a farm-house, building by this gentleman, I could not resist requesting the workmen to convey to their employer the sentiments of admiration his plantations had inspired in the breast of a brother planter. This is by far the most spirited improvement we had yet seen in Ireland, and the first of magnitude to induce inquiry after its author.

By the side of a bog we observed a few miserable merino sheep. On dry and elevated pasture they might make a tolerably good shift; but on wet low ground thriving is not to be expected.

Two miles further on is a small town, the creation of Mr. Stewart, recently sold to Lord Montgomery. The crops are much later here than even in the county of Antrim. Mr. Arthur Young states, that there were no wheel cars in this part of the country when he visited it; at present a sledge is not to be seen; the Scotch carts being very common. In less than twenty

260 *Pass over a wild Extent of flat Bog.*

years the Irish car will exist only in recollection.

Ballybofey being the only resting place, we were obliged to avail ourselves of it, though only seven miles from Raphoe. Although the town is small, yet from the number of new houses erecting, it has the appearance of being in an improving state. Mr. Brazil has a fine place, called Drumboe, opposite the town, about which there is much noble timber. The Foyle here, over which we passed, is a very handsome river.

After a steep ascent, for more than two miles, on leaving Ballybofey, we found ourselves on a wild, extensive range of flat bog, with a numerous insulated population scattered over its surface. In spite of a bright sun and clear sky, the scene was cold and melancholy. The cabins here at all times must be difficult of access, as there are no roads into the bog; and in the winter it should seem that its inhabitants must be entirely cut off from all communication with the lower country: this circumstance, which to us seemed to be a great misfortune, was by the natives considered as the peculiar advantage of their situation; and, which, by the illicit practice of distilling, is

turned to a good account. The bog furnishes abundance of fuel, and the difficulty of access enables them to brave the laws with impunity. The manufacture of potcheene, or whiskey, made in small stills, is here carried on to a considerable extent, and the produce is held in high estimation. The trade, though lucrative, is, like most other contraband pursuits, in the end not often profitable. While the lottery has enriched a few, it has impoverished and been the ruin of thousands. The appearance of the cabins by the side of the road, and the state of the potatoe grounds, bespoke the absence of industry; while the looks of the children, nearly in a state of nakedness, left nothing to conjecture as to the extent of wretchedness in which the parents existed. I made some inquiries of a little boy, which he answered in Gaelic; this furnished me with a pretence for following him home. His mother was employed in the cabin, by attending to four other children. In this miserable hut there was no division of apartments; the cattle occupied one end, the family the other; near the fire was a bed, which apparently served for the repose of all the human beings. I addressed some inquiries to the woman, which she either could not, or would not comprehend. Her husband's attention was seemingly directed to the cows and

pigs at the other end : contrary to the usual disposition of the Irish, he was by no means solicitous of any intercourse. The most extreme poverty and wretchedness were manifestly apparent, with the absence of what we had every where else constantly found, kindness and hospitality. As a further proof of their deplorable condition, we evidently afforded them relief when we quitted the cabin : even the potatoes, as if distempered by poverty, did not seem to thrive. Whether this was owing to the elevation of the ground, or to the want of managment, I know not ; possibly it might be imputable to both.

There was but one other cabin beyond this, before we entered on an immense tract, which seemed to be desolate and wholly uninhabited. As we advanced towards this dwelling, we observed a female running, with her hair dishevelled, in great haste along the high road, towards us. When she reached the cabin she stopped, and we were sufficiently near to note what passed. She seemed much agitated, and her information evidently produced great alarm in the man and his wife, who came to the door. The messenger had quickly told her tale, and was proceeding on her way by the time we came up ; on which, a conversation of a few seconds en-

sued between the pair, and the woman came forward with a request for our assistance. The still hunters were at hand, and they should be ruined. They had a sack of malt belonging to a neighbour, which could not be removed without our assistance to lift it on her husband's back, which she was incapable of doing—as well she might, for the sack most probably contained six bushels. Strong incitement bestows a power of eloquence to feeling, that speaks irresistibly to the heart. The alarm and dismay of this hapless couple banished every other consideration, and though we might hazard a visit to Sligo gaol, we could not refuse our help. The sack was placed on the poor fellow's shoulders,—he bore its enormous weight with alacrity down an adjoining burn;—was soon out of sight, and the good woman relieved from the threatened danger.

The confidence with which our assistance was asked is characteristic of that honorable principle which is eminently distinguishable among the lower Irish; an informer is rarely to be met with, from the detestation in which the character is held. So much confidence reposed in such utter strangers had something in it very grateful to our feelings; yet when the occurrence was afterwards subjected to reflection,

264 *Baneful Effects of spirituous Liquors.*

it did not appear in a point of view quite so agreeable.

It was about the middle of the twelfth century, that the distillation of ardent spirits was introduced. These for a long time were only used medicinally, under the name of "*Aqua vita* or *eau de vie*." "What is made in England," says Moryson, "is nothing so good as that which is brought out of Ireland; and the usquebagh is preferred to our *aqua vita*, because the mingling of raisons, fennel seedes, and other things, mitigating the heat, and making the taste pleasant, makes it less inflame, and yet refresh the weak stomach with moderate heat and good relish."

Illicit distillation augments the misery of the lower classes in Ireland, by destroying the habits of industry; while the baneful effects of indulging in spiritous liquors at a cheaper rate than otherwise they could be procured, injures their moral character: the defalcation sustained by the revenue is, comparatively, the least important concern; misery and crime, the consequences of inebriety in the people, are a sad reproach to our policy, and must so continue while tacitly promoted by the state. Can the apology of the half-starved apothecary, Our

“poverty, but not our will, consents,” be received as a national excuse from the government, for the degradation of the subject? surely this would be as ill founded as the usual pretence for intoxication,—“to drive away care.” Admitting its noxious influence to be capable of drowning for a moment the sorrows of the afflicted, the suspension of misery is purchased by subsequent increased torture to the sufferers, as well as to their families and friends. The flash of lightning in a night of darkness affords a momentary illumination, to render the obscurity more frightful. If any human being can be deemed excusable in seeking consolation from inebriety, it is the slave, who has no hope of release, or even of any mitigation of his sufferings—the consequence of sordid avarice and inhumanity on the part of others, unconnected with crime, or deserved punishment, on his own. As neither courage nor contrivance can relieve so unfortunate a being, to forget his privations for a time is a blessing—yet this alleviation may be obtained at too great a price, when purchased at the expense of mental and bodily force, which lessens the power of contending afterwards against the evil it was intended to remove.

On our arrival at the uninhabited region, to

266 *Enter the awful Pass of Barnmoor.*

which I before adverted, one solitary hovel only was seen at a distance, standing in the midst of this extensive field of desolation, nearly opposite to Lough Alowin, a mile and a half in length, and half a mile in breadth. Here we entered the grand and awful pass of Barnmoor, a quarter of a mile wide, and three miles long, formed by mountains which rise to a considerable height on each side of a deep glen, the rugged tops and rocky sides of which contributed to the sombre appearance, by being partially blackened with heath. The gloom and chillness of the air, occasioned by the exclusion of the sun's rays—the death-like silence which here appeared to reign, impressed the mind with an indescribable solemnity and awe; for though there was little to apprehend from the destruction which nature held impending over our heads, and as little to dread from predatory man, yet there was something so truly inhospitable, melancholy, and desolate in the scene, that the passing moments were attended by feelings of a painful description, until we became relieved by the sight of some habitations at the bottom of the hill, yet two miles to the end of this dismal pass.

Appalling and forlorn as was the situation, it had allured a human being, though with

scarcely human semblance, here to establish himself. The cabin in which he and his wife exist is scarcely large enough to afford them shelter. He said, and I verily believe him, there were few who durst inhabit such a spot during the winter months, as the violence of the wind when rushing through the pass, had sometimes proved fatal to travellers, of which there had been instances in the two last winters of his residence. What possible choice could induce a human creature to fix his solitary abode in so frightful a place? The dread of most mortals—the envy of none—and where the glorious rays of the sun never penetrate? His answer in one word was explanatory and conclusive—necessity!—forced out of his former abode, friendless and forlorn, he had sought the occupation of a spot where he might continue undisturbed, a spot which no one should reclaim—and in making his election here, he had, assuredly, been successful. Repulsive as was the countenance of this unfortunate man, it were impossible not to compassionate his miserable situation: ill usage might have conspired to give a savage ferocity to his features, which his seclusion, and the terrific scenery about him, were not calculated to render more mild or hospitable.

Great as are the pleasures resulting from a contemplation of the sublime, and imposing as are the dismal objects in the scenery of this extraordinary pass, we were extremely happy to change our prospect, and once again enter into the habitable world.

A number of cabins have been recently erected at the termination of the pass, where the land has been let at four shillings an acre, on leases for lives, and thirty years beyond their duration.

As a proof of the profitable application of ashes, the luxuriant appearance of the potatoes and oats surprised me, the cultivation on the southern side of the mountain is carried to a great height; on the more elevated parts of which, a number of goats, belonging to the cabins below, were seen browsing.

As we descended into the plain, we had a magnificent view of the Ross mountains. Lough Esk is at the head of the valley which communicates with Donegal. This lake is of inconsiderable extent—the mountain at its head is rendered more sublime by being thickly covered with wood at its base. The scenery,

on the whole, possesses much character, and is really beautiful. Mr. Young has a very pretty place at the foot of the mountain bordering on the lake. Char. are taken here, and the water is reported to be of great depth. We understood that the red deer are found as inhabitants of the mountains. From this engaging spot we had the same distance to travel as through the pass of Barnmoor; but the undulations of our road, and cheerful richness of the scene, formed a most complete contrast to that melancholy drive.

It is from trifling incidents, that conclusions may not less frequently than justly be drawn of the general character of a people. As we approached the town of Donegal, we had a specimen of the deportment of individuals, somewhat elevated above the level of the commonalty, to their supposed inferiors. A person of the former description was supplicated by a poor man who attended him for several hundred yards, urging his petition with his hat in his hand, and so he continued, though a number of people were passing, as long as they remained in our sight. The feelings with which I witnessed such conduct to a fellow creature were with great difficulty suppressed—

The Salubrity and Mildness of the Climate.

I could scarce refrain from expressing my indignation and anger. . . .
Donegal is a small town; the market-place is spacious; at one extremity of it is the ancient castle, the residence of the O'Donnells, now the property of Lord Arran. By the favor of Mrs Young we obtained a sight of its interior. The ceiling, placed in one of the public rooms, is very perfect, and from the appearance of the arms upon it, which are still entire, it should seem to be of modern date; on ascending to the battlement, we had a fine view of Donegal Bay.

Near the town is a mineral spring, which, with the convenience of sea-bathing, draws much company to the place. There are great indications of wealth among the inhabitants. The salubrity and mildness of the climate have counterbalanced the numerous privations the people here have had to encounter from the earliest times. There is a tradition preserved in one of their ancient chronicles respecting longevity. The Irish report, and will swear it, that towards the west, they have an island where the inhabitants live so long, that when they are weary and burthened with

life, their children in charity bring them to die on the shore of Ireland, as if the island would not permit them to die upon it. In modern times the Countess of Desmond, who lived to the age of about one hundred and forty years, is said to have been able to go on foot, four or five miles to the market town, and was accustomed weekly so to do in her last years. Not many years before she died, she had all her teeth renewed.

The port is accessible to vessels of two hundred tons burden ; and in the bay, there is a considerable herring fishery. Within half a mile of the town are the ruins of a Franciscan monastery, founded in 1474, by Odokoe O'Donnell and Penelope his wife ; it is a favorite burial place of the catholics. The site of the building is very beautiful. The quarries in this neighbourhood yield the best millstones of any procured in Ireland, and a considerable number of them are annually exported. We understood there were a great number of protestants in this neighbourhood, whence to Bally Shannon being ten miles—I must bid you farewell.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXII.

Bally Shannon, August 31, 1813.

THE road for the first four miles afforded neither a view of the country nor any thing worthy of remark, excepting some fine quarries of white free stone, which we were informed were the roof to coal that had recently been discovered. Generally speaking, the stratification of Ireland, in those places where the lime-stone does not prevail, is too much broken to afford a reasonable hope of finding any extensive field of this valuable mineral.

We had a long and tiresome ascent to **Scott's Thomond**, without any indication of our labors being requited on gaining the summit; when, however, a most surprising view burst suddenly on us, resembling in effect that of a panorama. The sublime, the beautiful, and picturesque, all contributed, with a descending sun and clear atmosphere, to exhibit a distinct prospect of no common or usual description. The first object that attracted our attention, and indeed the

most singular one, was the foreground; this consisted of a double row of hills below us: in the upper range, I could distinguish eleven of beautiful rotundity, covered with ripening grain and potatoes; and in some instances, where they were enclosed with a few trees, they had more the appearance of Fairy Land than a portion of Ireland. The length occupied by these hills might be about two miles, the breadth something less. There appeared to be little interval or separation between the two rows: the hills of the outward row gradually sloped down to the sea. The irregular strips of grain and potatoes, the crops of which were exuberant, had a singular effect; giving some of the hills the appearance of a harlequin's dress. I cannot express the sensation produced on my mind by this group of mountains in miniature, which would form a most unique and beautiful landscape. To our right, about two miles below the station we had taken, was seen the spacious bay of Donegal; probably not less than six miles from shore to shore, and fifteen from its termination to the ocean, where the magnificent mountains of Ross end in a promontory, and form the entrance on one side, while the Sligo hills form on the other the opposite and more distant boundary of the

~~the small town of Bally Shannon is~~

~~very among the latter. Benbulbin is particularly~~
conspicuous.

The declining rays of the sun, irradiating the surface of the sea, presented to our view an extensive sheet of burnished gold; and in reflecting its warm and glowing tints over the nearer objects, completed the magic of a scene which would have kindled enthusiasm and rapture in the coldest and most insensible individual. The first sensation with which I became affected was astonishment—this was succeeded by the inspiration of unbounded admiration! The effects of both can never be effaced from my recollection. Reluctantly did I bid this delightful prospect farewell; and nothing but the rapid approach of night could have compelled us to quit a scene of such novelty and fascination. As far as we could judge, the remainder of the road was through a poor and ill cultivated country.

The valley of Bally Shannon is very fertile, as appeared by the excellence of the crops of grain. The town stands on the declivity of a hill sloping to the river Erne. The church is on a rising ground above the town, and is a fine object. A great number of new houses are

building, and every thing indicates Bally Shannon to be an improving place. An island of rock above the bridge, which is handsome, divides the current of the river, where are placed coops for taking the salmon, some of which are cured on the spot; this is understood to be a fishery of considerable importance. Lands near the town let from five to eight pounds an acre.

It was our wish to have taken post-horses to Enniskillen, and to have seen Lough Erne; we were, however, for some time unable to procure a conveyance of any kind; at length, a post-boy, who was in attendance on a party, with some difficulty was prevailed on to let us have one of his horses, on a positive engagement that it should be back by nine o'clock. We started at five; but the badness of our hired animal prevented our reaching the distance we proposed going; and we proceeded no farther than Beelick. Church Hill was yet two miles from us; this it was impossible to accomplish without forfeiting my word: we were consequently obliged to relinquish our promised view of this favorite lake. The falls of the Erne at Beelick are very picturesque, and, under any other circumstances, would have well repaid the trouble of the visit.

376 *New Character assumed by Begonia.*

The general description given of Lough Erne induces a supposition that it possesses more of the characteristics of beauty than any of the other lakes in Ireland. We had now great reason to regret that our original arrangements for this tour had not been better made, having started too late in the season for such a journey as we had undertaken. At Bealick are the remains of an unfinished canal. The completion of this work would have been attended with many advantages to the country.

We were yesterday somewhat surprised with the new character assumed by the mendicants, who travel here *en famille*. The heads of each party are furnished with sacks, cans, and sometimes tea-kettles. Few refuse to supply them either with potatoes or butter-milk. So extended are the rights of hospitality in this country, that any stranger entering a house at meal times may, without ceremony, sit down and partake with the family. Distress never fails to moisten the eye, and wants no advocate to reach the heart of an Irishman.

There is a vivacity in the common people that both interests and amuses—great fertility in expedients, and consummate good humour in tolerating grievances. John Bull would be

out of patience, and often out of humour, before he found a remedy for evils which are here constantly met by an expedient! Whilst I write, a proof of the fact is at my elbow. A chest of drawers in which the paraphernalia of the females, as well as the table linen, clean and dirty, are kept, has no lock; the want of this security is supplied by the absence of handles, so that whenever the drawers are resorted to, recourse is had to some new expedient. Three times have I been disturbed—the first essay for a rummage was by the assistance of a fork—this failing, the damsel went in search of a key, which on her return proved to be the sugar breaker! equally judicious were the other attempts, none of which were made, but in full confidence of a successful expedient! Simple as is this instance, it presents a strong trait of the Irish character. The want of method and order, and the careless indifference in not profiting by the experience of the past, produce and establish inconveniences that get confirmed, and descend to succeeding generations: “Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof,” is here construed literally into taking “no thought for the morrow.” The same want of reflection and forethought seems to pervade all persons, and every department. How different are the arrangements of an inn in England?

270 Want of Care and Attention at Inns.

where the presence and superintendence of the master and mistress keep their servants attentive to their duty, and every thing in due order. Here there appears to be no check on servants—no solicitude or care in the master—all is left to hazard; and while landlords must suffer prodigiously by such negligence, their guests are greatly inconvenienced—but complaining avails little. We have twenty miles to Sligo, without any inn conveniently placed at which to stop. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXIII.

Sligo, Sept. 1, 1813.

WE left Bally Shannon with regret, prevented as we were from accomplishing what had been with us a principal object—an unhurried contemplation of the beauties of Lough Erne. Disagreeable matters are not encountered with complacency when the mind has previously been made “ill at ease.” For the first time in the course of our tour were we now compelled to suffer the tedium of bad roads, and to travel for a considerable distance through the estate of an absentee. Four miles from Bally Shannon, we passed a small bathing place, where stood several neat cottages, and many others were erecting—in general the shore is rocky, but at the distance of about half a mile from this spot, we observed the small sandy beach for bathing, though unattended by machines. How bathing is managed without these I cannot conceive; for in no place does greater decorum or respect to the delicate feelings of the sex prevail than in Ireland. Even among the lower orders

any offence to modesty, or insult to female delicacy, is resented not by one, but by all.

Proceeding on a few miles further, we entered the estate of Lord Palmerston. From the sea shore to the Benbulbin Mountain is a complete flat of ten miles at least in breadth, extending in length towards Lough Erne a much greater distance; Benbulbin forms the most western point of the range of mountains which stretch from Lough Erne to the sea. The magnitude of this mountain, and its flat perpendicular side, made it an object of great attention and interest, even at a considerable distance.

Dilapidation and ruin were too evident over this extensive district; many of the cabins were fallen into decay; and what remained, and were still inhabited, seemed to be fast approaching to the period of their dissolution. A large proportion of the ground had an uncultivated aspect; while the few growing crops had a poor, unthrifty appearance, and little or no protection from the ruinous fences. The penfolds alone seemed in repair, the order and number of which, to a certain extent, supersede the necessity of fencing, by the duty enforced on the herds.

We could not learn the cause whence arose this scene of desolation. It may possibly arise from a refusal to renew the lease under which the land is held, which may render the party in possession wholly indifferent as to the state in which it may be resigned at the expiration of his term; for it is utterly impossible a proprietor would allow an estate over which he had any control, and with a knowledge of its situation, to remain in so deplorable a condition.

Nothing could have exceeded the goodness of the roads over which we had passed, until we entered on the property of Lord Palmerston, where we found them so bad as to be scarcely passable. The attention to weeding of crops, though time is of so little value, is not greater than what is paid to the repairs of the roads. In a small field of wheat, not exceeding two acres, I attempted to calculate the number of docks among the grain, but found the task too great. Turf was leading in creels on horses' backs from the bog, of which in this neighbourhood there are thousands of acres. A considerable quantity of kelp is burned on the sea shore for the purpose of obtaining alkaline salt.

We entered some of the cabins: the wretchedness of the interior was perfectly correspondent to their external appearance. The inhabitants seemed bent under their weight of misery. Many of the elderly persons petitioned for tobacco, but none of them asked for money.

Whilst we are compelled to sigh for the wretchedness of those we left within, we could not but smile at the strange inconsistencies which presented themselves without; though unable to account for the causes whence they originate. In one place is a laborer working with a shovel, the handle of which is little short of his own length; and close to him is a man breaking stones with a hammer fit only to drive a common nail, with a handle not a foot long.

Every advance we made on Benbulbin increased its consequence. The road led us within a short distance of this remarkable mountain, which rose like a perpendicular wall from the plain to a great height; and did not the magnitude forbid the conclusion, it might be taken for a work of art. The north side is inaccessible; an ascent can only be found on

its southern parts, which are covered with heath. A variety of rare plants are said to be found on its summit. So stupendous a mountain rising by itself from a flat surface, is striking, and reminded us of the fortresses represented on the plains of Hindostan. As we passed to the south of Benbulb, we entered on another extensive plain which reached to Sligo; the soil of which appeared to be good, and well attended to in point of cultivation. We passed through a parish which we were given to understand contained no other protestants than the clergyman and his family. The Rector is said to be engaged in a considerable salt work. I own I cannot help expressing a wish that his time could be more appropriately devoted.

We had noticed a number of people on the road to Drumcliff: when we reached that village the cause became explained; a funeral of some person belonging to the place had drawn together a great concourse of people. Parties of each sex were seen seated near the house, whose attendance did not appear to be rewarded by any distribution of refreshments. Where time is of so little value, any object becomes welcome that affords an opportunity of filling up the void.

The approach to Sligo announces to the traveller his arrival at a place of some importance, by the number of good houses, pleasant grounds, and plantations in its environs. The extensive barracks are the first buildings that present themselves on entering the town: the streets are spacious—the shops good, and a general appearance of industry prevails. Our inn is really very comfortable. The ruins of a monastery of Dominicans are by much the best specimen of architecture we have yet seen in Ireland. The custom house and storehouses are on a very extensive scale: great additions are making to the quays; and as the navigation to them is very good, vessels of considerable tonnage can safely approach and enter the docks. Sligo has had a share of the trade to America and the Baltic; its exports are chiefly confined to butter, grain, and linen. The importation of coal is infinitely less than it would be, were the lower classes provided with grates or stoves in their habitations. The price at Sligo of this article is from thirty to thirty-five shillings a ton; it is brought as demrage from Liverpool; but the chief supply is from Scotland.

The population of Sligo exceeds ten thousand souls. The prison is spacious and well-

constructed. It was grievous to see such a number of poor potcheene culprits. Mr. A. Young speaks of the inhabitants of this place, in 1774, as being sadly addicted to petty thefts: I do not find this to be the case at present, as fewer crimes of this description are now said to occur than in so numerous a population might be expected. An instance greatly to the credit of the general honesty of the lower community ought to be mentioned. It is the general custom to bank the potatoes in the fields; and great as was the scarcity last year, very few losses, indeed, were sustained in consequence of the mounds being broken into. Private acts of malice or revenge are the most reprehensible points in the Irish character. The lower orders consider themselves privileged to be the avengers of their own wrongs. If this unhappy conceit, this mistaken notion, be consequent on a lax administration of justice, producing disrespect, if not contempt for the laws, the remedy will be found in creating a confidence among the lower orders, that shall ensure due obedience to all legal injunctions, and due respect for the magistracy; who by their conduct shall persuade the laborious people to believe that their duty, which must be enforced, is identified on all occasions with the happiness of the whole community.

We are now advancing into a country inhabited by a different race of human beings, and fancy that we can already perceive a manifest change. The inhabitants of the north of Ireland are a stout, athletic race; the men well proportioned in the body and limbs, with the exception of a defect frequently observable about the knee.

The women in the northern parts of Ireland, or at least those we had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with, were, from a cast of melancholy in their countenances (if not to be reputed handsome), in general extremely interesting and attractive.

The national indignation excited against Mr. Twiss, for the publicity given to his observations on this subject, makes it dangerous to be minute, lest unintentionally I might incur displeasure. The apparent want of solidity and form in the lower extremities of the working classes, do not please an observer accustomed to the excellence of shape so common to all ranks in England; yet the same want of due proportion and symmetry is not discoverable in the hand and arm. These observations are alone applicable to those who labor in Ireland, and equally extend to the hard-working Scotch

and Welsh women in London. Female beauty here is of very short duration. Want of protection to the face from the sun, wind, and smoke, soon destroys the finest complexion; and as this is so materially requisite to constitute loveliness in the sex, it cannot be expected that the young women should long remain strictly beautiful, though their features may entitle them to be considered as agreeably personable. Tastes, however, differ so much, that no one should hazard more than his own individual opinion, and leave the pronouncing of judgment generally to the discrimination of the many. I shall write again from Sligo before we proceed hence; till when, adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXIV.

Sligo, Sept. 3, 1813.

OUR first pursuit this morning was to pay a second visit to the docks, and to take a further view of the Bay and Lough. Its banks are bold to the south; the opposite shore flat and fertile. The scenery from this place is extremely beautiful, in which Benbulb forms a conspicuous feature.

Those who travel to this part of Ireland should calculate on the appropriation of some time to the examination of this Lough, and exploring the others we have passed; in which pursuit they would find much gratification, as the general appearance of them, in point of beauty, is little inferior to much of our lake scenery in Westmorland.

After spending some time very pleasantly, we returned, and procured a boat to take us to Hazlewood, the seat of Mr. Wynne, which is considered as one of the first show places in Ireland.

It is impossible to conceive more grand, and, at the same time, more diversified features, than combine to adorn this spot. In front an extensive plain is bounded on one side by Benbulb; on the other, by the chain of hills which form the southern boundary of the bay. The extensive water of Lough Gilly, in which are many beautiful islands, nearly surrounds the grounds; and while the summits of the hills, by which it is encompassed, exhibit the bare craggy rock, their bases are finely skirted with wood. To form the most accurate judgment on the beauty of Hazlewood, it should be seen from the water; yet the view from the margin is highly picturesque. Impressive, however, as are the several views of the lake, the magnificence of Benbulb made stronger impressions of admiration on my mind. The singular grandeur of so stupendous a mountain, springing upright and majestically from an humble plain, in the midst of a valley highly cultivated and tolerably well wooded, was like nothing I had seen before, and most probably shall never again behold.

The mansion is a handsome modern residence, to which considerable additions are making. In the park is seen a great profusion of fine timber. Adjoining to the river Gilly, is a tract

290 *Farming Establishment at Hazlemood.*

of bog, much of which is reclaimed, and the rest so judiciously planted as to exclude it from the view. The farm is laid out with great taste. A road with plantations passes through the centre of it—the pastures are well laid down, and divided by fences, which are admirable. A principal part of the domain rests on limestone.

The hillocks here, as well as in other places, contain limestone gravel; and from the large excavations we have frequently seen, it is probable this matter has in former periods been used as manure, though, from its weight and the quantity applied per acre, which is from sixty to eighty cart-loads, it cannot be conveyed to any great distance. The proportion of calcareous and siliceous matters frequently vary; small particles of limestone accompany it, and it is often applied to the making and repairing of roads, for which it appears to be a good material.

Mr. Wynne's most favorite pursuit appears to be the improvement of the stock of cattle; this, to a certain extent, may account for the neglected appearance of his crops of turnips, the cultivation of which did not seem to correspond with the high character he has established as a farmer, and to which his practices

generally entitle him in the neighbourhood. He had imported from Mr. Bakewell some of that gentleman's best long-horned stock, and had bestowed great attention to their breed. At present he is much occupied in the introduction of the Devon cattle. His South-down flock does him great credit. I never saw a better collection of ewes. Here are also some merinos. The whole of the flock is generally kept on the mountains during the summer. A remarkably good breed of Suffolk draught horses has likewise been introduced.

The stock on the farm is so great, and the cultivation of green crops so comparatively small, that a prodigious quantity of hay from the permanent pastures and meadows is collected and required to carry them through the winter. Mr. Wynne does not find it necessary to employ his tillage land, of which he has but a small quantity, in the growing of clover. Wood of most descriptions grows most luxuriantly. The thinnings of the extensive plantations, of which there is a weekly sale through the year, make a considerable return. The firs planted on the bog were growing very well, especially where it was becoming dry and was well sheltered.

From Maryson we are informed that "Ulster and the western parts of Munster yield vast woods, in which the rebels, cutting up trees and casting them in heaps, used to stop the passages therein, as also upon fenny and boggy places, to fight with the English. But I confesse myself to have been deceived in the common fame that all Ireland is woody, having found in my journey from Armagh to Kingsale few or no woods by the way, excepting the woods of Ophalia, and some low shrubby places which they call glennes. And I did also observe many boggy and fenny places whereof great part might be drained by good and painful husbandry. I may not omit the opinion commonly received that the earth of Ireland will not suffer a snake or venomous beast to live, and that the Irish wood transplanted is free of spiders, which the inhabitants deny to have any poison; myself have seen some (but very few): but I have heard some English of good credit affirme by experience the contrary. The Irish having in most parts great woods or low skirts and thickets, do use the same for fire, but in other partes they burne turfe and sea coals brought out of England. They export great quantities of wood to make barrels called pipe staves, and make great gain thereby. They are

not permitted to build great ships for war ; but they have some small ships in some sort armed to resist pirates for transporting of commodities into Spain and France, yet no great number of them. Therefore, since the Irish have small skill in navigation ; as I cannot praise them for this, and as I am confident the nation being bold and warlike, would no doubt form brave seamen if they shall practice navigation and could possibly be industrious. I freely confess that Ireland in general would yield abundance of all things to civil and industrious inhabitants. Where it lay wasted by the rebellion, I did see it after the coming of Lord Mountjoy, dailey more and more to flourish, and in a short time after the rebellion appeared like a new spring putting on its wonted beauty."

The farm-yard is very extensive, in which there is a large threshing machine and its necessary appendages. The natural beauties and artificial accompaniments of the place certainly excite admiration, but I was not less gratified by the arrangements adopted by Mr. Wynne for securing comfort and happiness to his numerous workmen and laborers. He has erected twelve new well-contrived cottages, uniting great convenience with little expense. One roof covers two abodes of one story each ;

294 *Cottages for Mr. Wynne's Laborers.*

these are each divided into four apartments—a sitting-room, two bed-rooms, and a milk-house, together with a small wash-house behind, a garden, and three statute acres of land, in which are sheds for the cow and pig of each family.

Encouraging and helping cottiers to keep cows are attended with many comforts and advantages; yet in the event of accident to the cow, a hopeless distress is entailed on the family; to guard against which, I would recommend a fund to be established, to which each cottier keeping a cow should subscribe fourpence halfpenny a-week, or about twenty shillings a year; this would ensure the parties against casualties, and might be otherwise beneficial where these did not occur, especially if their employers would kindly assist in the support and management of the fund.

The fronts of these cottages are neatly kept, and somewhat resemble the Cheshire gardens, which are so charmingly ornamented with flower and fruit trees, that Mr. Burke, on passing them, is said to have exclaimed, “How gratifying the sight of these superfluities, which vouch that necessaries are not wanting.” The rent of these comfortable tenements of Mr. Wynne’s is five pounds each per annum. The care and

management of the cow devolves on the wife; a duty which is not often neglected. Besides allowing some little indulgence of butter to the family, one hundred and fifty pounds weight, or on an average three pounds weight per week, during the year, is salted for market, where it is worth about six guineas. The butter-milk, assisted by potatoes, furnishes food to the family. The husband's earnings, in Mr. Wynne's employ, is ten pence a-day throughout the year. I visited several of these cottages, and saw no instance of neglect; on the contrary, the cleanliness and regularity which prevailed in each family were very pleasing.

Can the individual satisfaction which must constantly result from the contemplation of a happy and contented peasantry, be less gratifying to the benevolent feelings of Mr. Wynne, than it is gratefully acknowledged by his dependants?—the situation of whom must be enviable in the highest degree by the wretched cottiers whose miserable lot we have so often deplored. How far this benevolent example may have an effect in the general extension of so laudable an attempt for the melioration of the miserable existence to which the whole rural population of Ireland is at present exposed, time alone can determine: in the

mean time, Mr. Wynne has made a beginning; and in proving that it is not impracticable to better the condition of the industrious and deserving, he has already effected much. The noblest use of fortune is the power of conferring happiness. I have seen nothing which has afforded me a gratification equal to the examination of this establishment. May it not reasonably be anticipated, that by placing the lower classes in comfortable habitations, the minds of the present race will in some degree become emancipated from their former groveling notions? and that the rising generation, accustomed to the comforts of cleanliness and

regularity, will acquire habits more likely to be improved than speedily abandoned? Will these not be looking up to the attainment of that independence which they will early be taught awaits industry and exertion? Will they not be indisposed to settle themselves for life, without a fair prospect of retaining a continuance of these comforts to which from their earliest youth they have been accustomed? and thus, is it not likely, that to a certain extent, the excessive population of the country may be restrained.

The correction of long-settled and inveterate habits must proceed gradually. It requires not

only much philanthropy and some courtesy to be steadily directed, on the part of those who endeavor to effect such a change; but also the inspiration of a full confidence in the sincerity and fairness of their dealings, with honest efforts on the parts of those by whom it is to be adopted. It is objected that were the cabins of the lower Irish made ever so comfortable, they would not long be kept so. I am fearful this would be the case, were such an attempt to be limited to the habitation only: it must embrace more to produce any material alteration. The first object of attention is, to enable the cottier to keep his cabin in a comfortable state after it is so made for him, which cannot be expected while dire necessity so bows him to the ground as to exclude all his prospects, and render him indifferent to the concerns of life, by engrossing the full amount of his faculties to provide for the absolute wants of the moment.

To give a due elevation of mind to the Irish peasantry, and place them on a level with their English and Scottish neighbours, would require not only one feature of their present treatment to be altered, but possibly an entire correction of the whole assemblage.

The upper classes must become willing to

298 *Nobility and Gentry capable of effecting*

concede that which will cost them nothing : the lower, to accept the gift without arrogance—with a confidence in the sincerity of the offer—a steady determination to adopt the prescribed rules for their future conduct—and a grateful recollection and respectful feeling towards their benefactors. The constant residence of benevolent proprietors among them would be the greatest blessing which could be conferred on Ireland. Their example, their advice and encouragement, in a less time than can now be imagined, would work wonders for the general happiness of the country : for while efforts by force, under whatever colour they may be attempted, if not indignantly resisted, would at least be unavailing, much by means of the nobility and gentry themselves would happily be effected, at first from gratitude, and afterwards from esteem and regard.

Man under certain circumstances may be compared to a machine, acted on by various exterior and interior forces : to produce any material change, one or both must receive different impulses. A change of habits involves a long train of consequences—the difficulties many—the operations slow. In the reign of Henry the Eighth a law passed by which all persons in Ireland were restrained from being shaved

above their ears, or wearing glebbes or corelins (long locks) on their heads, or hair on the upper lip called cournmeal. Tyrants, in short, of all ages have supposed that their arbitrary will was alone sufficient to produce any revolution in the customs or manners of their enslaved subjects; but when such attempts have outraged and insulted the feelings of the people, they have not always succeeded.

How painful it is here at this day, to witness the dictatorial haughtiness maintained over the working classes? It would be an injustice to my own feelings as a man, were I not to hope this conduct, however obnoxious, is more attributable to the effects of habit, than an innate tyranny of mind, as it is not unusual to hear those highly condemn it who indulge in its daily practice.

The inconsiderate adoption of wrong principles and mistaken notions has had a baneful effect on many of the higher classes in other respects beside that of their general demeanor towards their dependants—towards those in the subordinate and those in the lower walks of life; the latter of whom comprehending the principal part of the population, in having neither utility to recommend them, nor consequence to com-

mand the notice of their superiors, have been considered by their lordly oppressors as beings of an inferior race ; and in the arrogance of this assumed pre-eminence, the common people are treated like creatures of a subordinate species. When the elevated situation of the one class, and the depressed condition of the other, are justly considered—when the former, by riches only, is placed so far above that step to which human pretensions in rags are suffered to approach, as entirely to destroy all the connexion and all the interest which humanity has ordained should have existence between man and man ; it ceases to be a paradox that these indignities should be submitted to, when offered without fear of resistance to a people, who, unprotected by the law, and ignorant of benefits to which they are justly entitled, must consider the operation of this derogatory sentiment, and the consequent deportment towards them, as the inherent malady of their community, incapable of alleviation by any union of effort, and individually irresistible by themselves.

Before any material change can be effected, the lower classes of the people must be taught really and in truth to reverence and respect their superiors ; for until this is accomplished, there will be found little inclination to adopt their

better opinions in direct opposition to those on which they have so long acted, though to their manifest disgrace and sometimes punishment. It would be extremely desirable, indeed, that they should immediately be induced to believe, that from a due obedience to the laws, they would obtain more satisfactory redress than by the indulgence of their private revenge in their personal quarrels.

Insubordination, it is greatly to be feared, has been much promoted by the mal-administration of justice. If men of honor and humanity, can from habit, or want of consideration, or the absence of other proper feeling, treat inferiors contemptuously, what may not be apprehended when the magisterial power is confided to individuals uneducated in the principles of distributive justice, and uninfluenced by the sacred obligations of religion and nature.

The just and impartial investigator would, I much fear, discover that every seditious or illegal association which has so frequently agitated Ireland, has been bottomed on causes of substantial complaint, arising out of the want of legal protection or redress, the tyranny and oppression of others, and of poverty and despair in themselves. The unfortunate manner, how-

ever, in which has been sought an abatement of these wrongs, by their various associations, has only aggravated the sufferings they fondly hoped to alleviate; and by their inordinate proceedings they have indisposed their countrymen and all mankind towards what otherwise might have been deemed well-founded claims to relief. Whilst I cannot but condemn the means resorted to for redress, I must commiserate the wretchedness, and pity the incitements of these deluded people, under a conviction that there must be something radically wrong in the constitution, order, and management of the Irish, which calls aloud for the sedate thought and interposition of government, temperately to inquire into, and strictly to ascertain, the causes of complaint, of grievances, and abuses; and to adopt such measures as may appear to be best calculated at once to remedy and remove them, and not, by temporizing, palliate and continue the present evils. Undoubtedly a large proportion of them will be found to arise from an unemployed excessive population. This, as one instance of the operation of mistaken notions in Ireland, has injudiciously been promoted by a general desire in persons of landed property to multiply the number of settlers on their estates, from a belief in some that it is the best means of advancing their income, in others, the surest

way of obtaining political consequence. The pride which is felt in England in having a rich and thriving tenantry is scarcely known in Ireland, where the difficulties of obtaining rents, not that of finding tenants, are a great drawback to the purchase and possession of estates.

Dr. Anderson, about forty years ago, in a survey he was employed to make of the Hebrides, with a view to suggest the best means of preventing emigration, reported that the excess of population beyond what the capital was capable of employing in agriculture, was the cause of the general poverty and distress; as a great portion of the people was living on the stock of the effective labor of others, and unable by their own to contribute any thing towards it. Such at this time is the case in Ireland; and, under the present peculiar circumstances of the country, emigration ought rather to be encouraged than restrained.

Our ride about Hazlewood afforded us very many charming prospects. Mr. Wynne has the whole of it extremely well kept, and perhaps, with a general character so entitled to the grand, I might venture to offer, though as a solitary opinion only, that less dressing, with more exposure, would not be inappropriate in point of

304 Solitary Opinion hazarded on Haddingood.

style. As we landed we found Mr. Bramah had just erected an engine worked by the wind for supplying the house with water: had the centrifugal motion been applied, it would have worked its own sails; as it is, it requires a person constantly to attend it.

The whole establishment is extremely well regulated, and does great credit to the hospitable and considerate owner. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXV.

Belleek, Sept. 4, 1813.

THE soil and its cultivation undergo a great change for the worse on quitting Sligo. Indeed the whole of the country we have traversed from Derry, with some few exceptions, has been considered by us as of inferior quality in point of surface; little wheat being grown except in the neighbourhood of Bally Shannon. At Ballysedere there is a very romantic waterfall, and above it the remains of a monastery. We travelled some miles by the side of Knocknaree, a mountain of considerable height and extensive base. There are in this country numerous cairns, and the remains also of what seem to have been places of defence.

After travelling six miles we approached within a short distance of the sea, and continued to have it in our view along the coast for more than twenty miles. The herring fishery had commenced, which diffused a general joy throughout the country; we met people carrying these fish in creels in every direction. A failure in the potatoe crop, and the high price

306 *Culture of Mangel-Wurzel recommended.*

of grain, have been severely felt in the last year; but the present appearance of returning plenty has begun to soften the rigor of the past, which was frequently intimated by the wretched condition of the pigs. It would be an important advantage to the cottier could some means be suggested for supplying food to his pig after his potatoes are exhausted, and before the succeeding crop can be gathered. The mangel-wurzel seems well calculated to ensure this valuable purpose, as the plant thrives well on peaty soils, and the ashes from the bog would probably be the best manure it could receive. A valuable and weighty crop of leaves might first be procured, and the roots, afterwards boiled would contribute to the fattening of the pig at a less expense than with potatoes. At some future period I entertain little doubt that the cultivation of this plant on the bogs of Ireland will become not less general than advantageous to the numerous residents on them, as the benefit of the crop would extend to the feeding of milch cows as well as pigs. The weight of the crop, when compared with the produce from the same land in hay, would be as two tons of one to forty of the other, and consequently the value of mangel-wurzel may be esteemed as ten times greater than that of grass.

Our journey this day was not concluded under thirty-five miles, with a very indifferent place to stop at, called Gallaghers Inn, at the end of fifteen. Travellers on this road are so few that it was not surprising to find our host ill-provided; bread there was none—but cakes made with milk and flour, and prepared in a few minutes, became its substitute. Oaten bread is, in part, the food of the North of Ireland, as it is in Scotland, and some of our northern counties.

The diminished stature of the people here, when compared with those of the North, as likewise their general character, begin to be very apparent. Soon after we had breakfasted we entered on an extensive district of bog, reaching to the foot of Knocknaree. Not a tree was produced on this wide waste, in various parts of which were seen huge masses of rock, one of which I examined particularly, and found it to be of grey whinstone, unlike the rocks in its neighbourhood. These large stones being scattered individually over the bog had a singular appearance difficult to account for. The cabins on the side of the bog were miserable, and bore the strongest marks of poverty. Land was said to be let for twenty shillings per acre, on which the oats appeared to be ten days

308 *First Appearance of large grazing Farms.*

later in ripening than the crops which we had before observed.

The servants of government have found amusement and means of expending the public money here in the erection of martello towers : of what possible use they could be near such a coast it is difficult to imagine. At Enniscrone bridge a thick fog came on, and we travelled for more than an hour in great obscurity. As it cleared away, I was astonished by the appearance of most luxuriant verdure at some little distance before us. I had no hesitation in pronouncing that it must have a limestone substratum beneath it, which proved to be correct. Here was the first specimen that we had seen of large grazing farms, which we understood were rented at four pounds per acre. The pastures are very large, and were stocked with numerous herds of fine cattle and flocks of sheep.

As we were proceeding on foot up hill, according to our usual custom for the relief of ourselves and horses, and enjoying a fine prospect, we were accosted by a young man who inquired the time of day, and afterwards if we were of opinion he could in four hours reach his destination, which he named. The oddity of the question amused us—its purport was:

only to learn from us the distance; three Irish miles and an half per hour being considered to be fair walking. The length of Irish miles, however, proves sometimes a great grievance, at least our poor horses find them so towards the conclusion of the day.

Whilst we were amusing ourselves with the young man's circumlocution, and the various modes in practice by mankind to reach the same goal, we were addressed in a most plaintive and piteous tone of voice, indicating the extremity of pain and misery: "For the sake of the living God, I entreat you, gentlemen, to bestow—a pipe of tobacco!" The terms of supplication accorded so ill with the petition, that to preserve our gravity was impossible; and the poor fellow, who expected a very different reception, was disconcerted, though he did not fail to create an interest in his wants. These beggars, it seems, are extremely expert in beseeching relief, and have acquired no small degree of dexterity in the art of imploring.

From Enniscrone hill we had an extensive view of the Barony of Tyrawly, in which Mount Nephin appeared grand and conspicuous, being two thousand six hundred and

thirty feet above the level of the sea, while the Mayo mountains were presented with great effect in the distant boundary. The rocky bold shore terminates at Killala Bay, where the beach becomes shelving and sandy; it was here that General Humbert landed. The ever-fading laurels which have since been gained by Lord Wellington have wiped away the disgrace and mortification which this contemptible descent on the shores of the empire occasioned. I should have observed that at Erkey bridge we saw the extensive ruins of a monastery, and at no great distance also, on the banks of the Erkey river, the ruins of several castles. The valley here is very rich and beautiful.

The approach to Belleek is really very handsome, the fences well planted, the surface rich, and the crops of grain luxuriant. On passing into the town, the Moy is crossed, which is a noble river. Near its banks, within a short distance of Belleek, are several fine seats ornamented with thriving plantations. Meadow land here lets for seven pounds, arable from three to five pounds per acre; the tithe of the former as well as that of the latter, when producing oats, is twenty shillings the acre; flax much higher; very little wheat is cultivated. Milk sells at two

pence the wine quart; butter from ten pence to a shilling a pound; and the wages are from ten pence to a shilling a day.

The mode practised here in taking salmon is singular. The river has a rapid fall; above the bridge, on this declivity, are placed a number of stone posts in different directions, to which nets are suspended, and by which means the number of fish caught is considerable. Unfortunately for us it was market day. On our arrival at the inn, it had the appearance of having been brim-full. The quantity of dirt left behind by the guests would have been an important treasure in its proper place. Neither the master nor his servants appeared to feel the least annoyance from it, or to deem any apology necessary; on the contrary, our request to have some parts of it removed seemed to create surprise. Several post-chaises are kept at this inn, two of which were standing in the open street exposed to all the weather with their blinds down; and we were assured that the poultry frequently resorted to these machines for a retreat. This inattention may possibly induce a belief that carriages here were of little consequence; but the contrary is the fact; for posting is dear, and very deplorably conducted,

312 *Incompetent Gtlers and bad Stables.*

the harness being on a par with, and as much attended to, as the vehicles.

The charges at inns in Ireland are higher than in England—execrable Port, wine is seven shillings the bottle. Use, I make no doubt, might reconcile a stranger to the flavor of whiskey, which is the general beverage of the country. Poultry is both cheap and good. One of the greatest inconveniences is the miserable stabling. It is a great luxury to meet with stalls, and the being who calls himself an otlier is frequently so awkward, as to create a doubt if ever before he had officiated in that capacity.

We were disappointed, after admiring the approach, at the filth and disgusting appearance of the town, which exceeded any place through which we had passed. The population is considerable. The shops are small, and had the appearance of being poorly supplied; there is, however, a great show of new buildings in progress, besides which, there is a manufactory of linen to a considerable extent, but it does not appear to have the effect of enriching the people.

Our road to Castlebar is, as we are given to

understand, very hilly. We have consequently no time to spare, or you might, perhaps, be compelled to become a greater partaker of the tediousness we have already endured. Ever yours, adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXVI.

Castlebar, Sept. 4, 1815.

ON our quitting Belleek, the concourse of beggars was as great as those who used to assail the travellers in France thirty years ago. A great similarity was observable in their manners. Importunate on the subject of their own misfortunes and misery, they vociferously urged the claims of charity; but while they profusely implored blessings on us, their brethren in adversity were, by the same parties, treated with brutal repulsion. The impossibility of deciding on claims urged with equal importunity, and the incapacity of relieving one tenth of the number, suspended for a moment the usual donation, for the purpose of considering in what way best to act; the crowd in this short interval became impatient, and supposing there would be nothing given, their blessings were instantaneously converted into curses and execrations, with which we were most liberally treated. There was something so despicable and humiliating in this conduct, that every

feeling of commiseration fled; and for the first time, under similar circumstances, we parted in no charity with each other.

The fertility which had been so gratifying on our approach to Belleek soon disappeared as we turned our backs on the town. We had twenty miles to reach this miserable place. As we understood we should have to encounter many sharp ascents in the road, I would have lightened our carriage by the weight of our luggage, had not the modesty of a return post chaise driver, to whom I would have consigned it, demanded half his fare for its conveyance.

The magnitude and the form of mount Nephin are extremely grand; its lofty summit being generally enveloped in clouds, it was only at intervals we could obtain a complete view of it in all its majesty. This mountain is situated at the extremity of an immense bog, in the centre of which is Lough Conn. The surface of this great water is broken by a considerable number of scattered islands; its margins are too flat to be considered as entitled to the claim of beauty. We understood that it abounds with the gillaroo trout.

On stopping for the purpose of refreshing

our horses at a miserable public house, we were joined by a well-informed tradesman who was on his road to Castlebar in the return post-chaise that was to have taken our luggage. He had been a volunteer during the rebellion, and was communicative of the transactions he had witnessed. This stranger was a very loyal subject, and a zealous defender of the protestant cause, consigning without mercy or discrimination, the whole race of catholics to the disposal of his infernal Majesty. The priest of the hamlet had taken an active part in the rebellion, and many through his influence had been drawn into the error for which he had been executed.

In answer to some inquiries I made as to the situation of these poor deluded people, our rational informer without hesitation replied, "They are rung in the nose like a pig, and bent to the earth—their cabins are wretched—their food most miserable—rent and tithes take the kernel of the nut, and leave the shell only for those who labor—a dreadful state, and loudly calling for redress:" yet it did not occur to him, that a people in so deplorable a situation, so long as they were catholics, were objects of any great pity or commiseration. How inconsistent do our prejudices make us? our very

virtues betray us into uncharitable incongruities!

Royalty in Great Britain is not an empty pageant, a senseless ostentatious sound! but implies power—exercised for public protection—for individual security—for the maintenance of public tranquillity—for the conservation of personal privileges, liberty, freedom, and rights—and for the execution of the laws. Attachment to so illustrious an office, whence no wrong can issue, and where the fountain of mercy resides, is founded on rational principles, or a compact existing between the governor and the governed. The distribution of benefits is the business of the former—a grateful acknowledgement, and thankful acceptance, the duty of the latter—here, the law is the poor man's shield, and here the dwarf, arrayed against the giant, has an equal chance in the field over which justice presides. What a contrast does the reverse of the medal in Ireland present? Can loyalty or attachment be expected from a people as here described, “rung in the nose like a pig, and bent to the earth?”

Mr. A. Young gives a deplorable account of the county of Mayo, at the time of his visit.

318 ~~These were the ways by the tail~~

He states that, in defiance of the act of parliament forbidding the practice, the plough was still worked by being attached to the horses' tails. It is supposed that the custom of ploughing by the tail was introduced by the Picts, for it prevailed also in the northern parts of Scotland. An act of council was made in 1606, to stop the barbarous mode of drawing ploughs and carriages in this manner: the penalty for the first offence was the forfeiture of one garrow; for the second, two; and for the third, the whole team. In 1612, ten shillings were levied for every plough so drawn in Ulster: the penalties levied in one year amounted to eight hundred and seventy pounds sterling.

I have been informed that it was not uncommon in those times, to thatch the backs of their milch cows, to protect them against the wet and cold, having no hovels under which to afford them shelter. Bad as things now are, yet these practices exist only in *tradition*.

The lay or spade, used here, is of an uncommon shape: it is about ten inches long, having room only for the right foot to work on; it tapers from six inches at top to about four at the bottom, with a handle five feet in length.

Timber of great Diameter found in the Bogs. 319

This implement is well designed for cutting turf, and it is said to answer for the trenching of ground.

In passing through the bogs, we have frequently seen timber extracting from them. On quitting the place where we had stopped, we had an opportunity of examining an oak about six feet in diameter and thirty in length, perfectly sound; it had been a fine tree, and had recently been drawn from the bog. After travelling two miles at the base of Mount Nephin, we arrived at the pass of Barnaghee, which is the steepest and longest hill I ever ascended, the Alps excepted. Our comparatively light carriage was a severe drag to the horses. Over this almost invincible barrier did the French convey two field-pieces: a few hundred men well posted would have been sufficient to have baffled the attempt of an army. It took us an hour and a half to gain the summit of the hill. During our walk up, the post-boy, who, though somewhat of a knave, was a shrewd fellow, observed that the want of precaution in the royal army was attended with very cruel and afflicting circumstances to the country; that few were disposed to join the French at first, from the contemptible state of their force; but after their success

232 *Croagh Patrick*

with such disproportionate numbers, it was generally supposed the defection of the army would have been such as to ensure complete triumph to the cause; and this led many to embark in the enterprise who would not otherwise have been engaged in it.

After a long and wearisome journey we at length reached the top of the hill, overlooking Castlebar and the extensive plain in which it is situated. Croagh Patrick, a mountain two thousand six hundred and sixty feet in height, is a commanding object. We had travelled from Belleek through a thinly-peopled poor district, but as we approached Castlebar the country improved. The town is of some size; the streets regular, and containing a number of respectable houses. Land near the town lets for five pounds sterling an acre. Strata of limestone appear where the bog does not intervene.

Our companion pointed out to us the scene of action between the French and our troops, with several anecdotes which were by no means uninteresting. The latter part of our journey had been wet, and soon after our arrival the rain fell in torrents. The inn was crowded, and our situation far from comfortable. We

had waited so long for dinner that our patience became exhausted, and at length I ventured into the kitchen: this was an inconsiderate act of rashness, and I paid severely for my temerity. Nausea is a speedy cure for the cravings of hunger. My incautious intrusion on the precincts of the cook effectually subdued every feeling of appetite for the dainties which at length were produced. A French kitchen is thoroughly disgusting; but then the viands from it are in general palatable. These however are but trifling grievances, especially after dinner; yet such in reality are the major part of those which are suffered to embitter life. Happy are those who can laugh them away!

Moryson, speaking of the Irish way of living in his time, says, "Neither had they any beere made of malt or hoppes, nor yet any ale; no, not chief lords, except it be very rarely; but they drink a milk-like nectar, warmed with a stone first cast into the fire, or else beefe broth mingled with meate; but when they come to any market-town, to sell a cow or horse, they never return home till they have drank the price in Spanish wine (which they call the King of Spain's daughter), or, in Irish, Usquebagh, and till they have out-sleepet two or three daies

drunkenness; and not only the common sort, but even the lords and their wives: the more they want this drink at home, the more they do swallow it when they come to it, till they be as drunk as beggars. Many of these wild Irish eat no flesh but that which dies of disease, or otherwise of itself, neither can it escape them for stinking. They desire no broath, nor know they any use of a spoone; they eat neither seeth artichokes, nor eat them when they are sodden. It is strange and ridiculous, but most true, that some of our carriage horses falling into their hands, where they found soope and starche, carried for use of our laundresses, they, thinking them to be some dainty meates, did eat them greedily; and when they stuck in their teeth, cursed bitterly the gluttony of the English churles, for so they term us. They feed most on white meates; esteem it for a great daintie, sower curds, vulgarly called Bonacalabbe; and for this cause, watchfully keep their cows, and fight for them as for religion and life; and when they are almost starved, yet they will not kill a cow, except it be old and yield no milk; yet will they upon hunger in time of warre, open a vienne of the cow, and drink the blood, but upon no cause kill or much weaken it. A man would think this came from the Scy-

thians, who let their horses blood under their ears, and drink their blood. The wild Irish seldom kill a cow to eat; and if perhaps they kill one for that purpose, they distribute it all to be devoured at one time; for they approve not the orderly eating at meals, but so they may eat enough when they are hungry they care not to fast long."

Habit, assisted by necessity, accommodates man to every species of endurance! It was the misfortune of this inn to be furnished with bells; and as there were several parties in great want, and only one individual to wait on them, the exercise of all the patience with which the guests were endowed was on this occasion indispensable: that this requisite and valuable quality was exhausted, became evinced by an incessant ringing for the waiter, whose stoicism did not appear to be disturbed by the clamor, which would have distracted the most phlegmatic of mortals. We were in haste to depart, and after he had disposed of other demands on his attention, according to the precedence of others or his own pleasure, he brought us pen and paper to write down what refreshments we had received. In affixing his price to the several items, we plainly perceived his charges were to be re-

by our appearance, and not by what in
ought to be demanded. Strangers are
to submit to this mode of paying, but
if the neighbourhood know how to meet
pecies of extortion. Adieu!—we must
rly.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXVII.

Ballinrobe, Sept. 5, 1813.

THE want of guide-posts is a serious inconvenience to travellers: such we have found it to be on various occasions. It was our intention to have gone first to Newport, but by mistaking the road we found ourselves at Westport.

The soil during the first eight miles from Castlebar is almost entirely that of bog. Croagh Patrick with its elevated summit, engrosses the principal attention, and forms the most interesting part of the prospect. We could not help remarking the extremity of poverty surrounding the cabins. In various instances we beheld children coming out of their huts quite naked, and apparently scarcely sensible of cold, though at an early hour in the morning: one child, about eight years old, stood for nearly ten minutes in our view, without showing any indication of uneasiness from its want of clothes. At the door of one of these wretched habitations was a young woman clean-

326 *Fiorin called Bottom Grass by the Irish.*

ing the head of an aged person with her nails. We had observed the same operation performing on children; the like practice was noticed by Moryson, who says, "And let no man wonder that they were lousie, for never any barbarous people were found in all kinds more slovenly than they are. Nothing is more common among them, than for the men to lie on the women's laps on green hills, till they kill their lice with great nimbleness." What can convey a more loathsome yet correct idea of the wretchedness then endured by these poor people?

In several of the meadows we observed a great proportion of fiorin: whilst we were examining one of them a respectably dressed man came up, of whom we inquired if the fiorin was naturally there, or had been introduced by cultivation. He did not appear to be at all acquainted with the name of the grass. On showing him a specimen, he said it was known by the name of *bottom grass*, and was the spontaneous production of the bogs.

We had a long acclivity to ascend before we reached Westport. From the summit of the hill a most commanding view is obtained of the town, the bay, and the surrounding mountain scenery. The late Marquis of Sligo, who was

the proprietor of an immense tract of indifferent land, stood forward as a very prominent character in the improvement of the country, and as an able agriculturist.

The plan of the town of Westport is regular, and it contains many handsome houses. The inn is on a scale suited to the most frequented place in the island, exhibiting great liberality on the part of the proprietor.

The Marquis of Sligo's residence is within a short distance of the town, and occupies the centre of a small valley between two high banks, within a few hundred yards of the sea. The house possesses little of any particular character to attract attention: the hanging woods are certainly very fine; but in a country presenting so many natural beauties, the situation did not appear to me as happily chosen. The soil about it is in part reclaimed bog, and has been made productive at a great expense; it affords however another proof of what may be done.

The farm-yard is the most superb and extensive establishment I ever beheld—replete with all kinds of machinery to give facility to the labors and promote the interests of husbandry. Mr. Morley, the bailiff, appears to be a very

328 Marquis of Sligo's Farming Establishment,

intelligent person, and has about ten acres of the Swedish and common turnips under tolerably good cultivation; but the present state of the farm proclaims its success to be only a secondary consideration, and no longer the object of patriotic pride and solicitude in the proprietor. Wherever this is the case, and that farming, under the immediate direction of a nobleman or gentleman, is not made a business of the first importance in the estimation of the operative parties, neither the time nor the expense bestowed on it will bring it to that perfection it ought to attain, or ensure those profitable returns, which, as a pattern of husbandry for the imitation of the surrounding estates, ought to be the principal inducement on the commencement of the undertaking.

The late Marquis seemed to have taken great pleasure in planting, and to have expended much of his noble fortune in the embellishment of his place and improvements in the town, to which his labors and expense seem to have been exclusively confined; there being no existing evidence that he entertained by his experiments any liberal plan for promoting a general improved system of cultivation in the country, or even in that of his own immense territory, which uniformly presents the reverse of

every thing which can gratify a lover of agriculture, or the feelings which result from meliorating the sad state of the rural population.

When a combination of the impressive features of nature is assisted by well-directed and superb embellishments of art, for the purpose of rendering the residence of a nobleman magnificent and splendid, the eye becomes delighted with the contemplation of such an union; but here the transitory pleasure must cease, unless the gratification be perpetuated by the additional evidence of comfort and happiness diffused to all around, in consequence of the industry excited by such costly efforts. Useless magnificence is not calculated to compensate for the absence of those substantial improvements which leave behind them lasting benefits to our fellow-creatures. When the expenditure of riches becomes the happy means of ensuring permanent support to parties in existence, and future respect to their posterity, it is that application of wealth which, above all others, affords the greatest recompense on the pillow of reflection. Nothing of the sort is here discoverable. The farming establishment had produced no general advantage to the cultivation of the country; and this, to a certain extent, reconciled

my mind, to seeing it dilapidated, and fast crumbling to ruin. I was not sorry to turn my steps another way.

On inspecting the port, we found a noble edifice, building by Messrs. Fitzgerald, as a warehouse, the expense of which, when finished, is estimated at ten thousand pounds. Government is laying out large sums on improvements in the harbour. The export of grain from this port is considerable. Warm sea-water baths form a part of the sumptuous establishments of this place.

The bay possesses many picturesque features; among the most striking are the lofty mountains of Croagh Patrick, occupying the whole head of the Lough. Next in consequence are the mountains of Galway to the right; those of Mayo on the left; and Clare Isle, and the stupendous black mountain, which close the bay. The union of so many grand objects forms a most splendid and interesting scene.

This place, some time since, was famous for the Irish wolf dog, which Mr. Pennant supposes was introduced into Ireland by the Danes: I regretted to find that the breed of these dogs had become extinct.

We were informed that the Sligo estate exceeded eighty thousand acres: we travelled through a great extent of it, and considered the soil to be as indifferent as the cultivation, was wretched. The magnificence of the town accords ill with the state of the property by which it is surrounded. The ground of good quality about it is let from three to four pounds the acre. I acknowledge it is incomprehensible to me how such rents for such land can be paid. The privations in the cabin can alone account for and explain the mystery, when remote from towns in which there is neither trade nor opulence. A rent-day, we were told, presents a spectacle that must force a sigh from the most obdurate of hearts. Such is the general distress on these appointed days, that it has jocosely been said, all the cattle of the district, twice in the year, belonged to one proprietor. This may be exaggerated, but the assertion would not have been hazarded without its being in some degree well founded. The tenants on this great estate have to erect whatever buildings they may require at their own expense, under a lease of twenty-one years: this term is too short for any prudent occupier to engage his capital and his time on the land, and consequently large tracts remain unculti-

332 *Competent Leases should be granted.*

vated, and are likely so to continue while these terms are required.

In all cases where the capital of the tenant must be expended on the property of the landlord, for the purpose of rendering the tenement worth the rent demanded, a term of years, secured by lease, should be granted, that may at least indemnify the occupier for the outlay of his money, and the value of his time and labor. These are capable of being precisely ascertained, on which such a term should be granted, on such rent or rents as will fairly renumerate him for both; with optional terminations, either by landlord or tenant, at the expiration of any specified number of years, on paying to the tenant, if he be compelled to quit, so much money as, by good vouchers and correct accounts, the tenement may fairly be esteemed to be in his debt.

As the interests of the landlord and of the tenant, with those whose conduct is governed by rectitude and fair dealing, are the same; no possible injury could arise by the adoption of this system, which would at once induce persons of respectability and capital to become the tenants and improvers of estates of this

description: for splendor surrounded by poverty has as little to create envy as to inspire respect.

Had time permitted, I should have wished to have visited Croagh Patrick. This spot forms a station, as it is termed, and is much resorted to by pilgrims from all parts of Ireland, and held in the highest veneration. Popular tradition attributes to St. Patrick, that he collected the whole race of venomous and noxious animals on this mountain, and thence commanded them to precipitate themselves into the sea. I do not know whether moles were invited at this time, but I do not recollect observing any traces of them, nor am I aware that any one has tried how far these little animals would thrive in Ireland. Frogs and magpies were unknown in the Isle of Man, until some wise person, at no very distant period, imported both, which have taken very kindly to their new country, and are there now in great numbers to the annoyance of the inhabitants. I think I have read that frogs were brought to Ireland, and had established themselves here very comfortably. A great part of our road passed through morasses, with here and there a patch of cultivation; but we had not seen either frogs or toads.

334 *Catholic Priest's Account of his Flock.*

We joined a fellow traveller who informed us, he was a catholic priest on his way to his parish, which contained five hundred families spread over a space of fifteen miles. His duties compelled him to keep a horse, and with a salary of only thirty-six pounds a year was he to support himself and his palfrey. When on duty he was lodged with some of his flock, who were of the poorest description, and who found his salary and the support of the chapels, of which there were several, very burthensome. It can scarce be doubted that the great body of the lower order of catholics would rejoice to have the stipends of their priests paid, and their chapels kept in repair, by government.

The account we received from this stranger of the morals of the people was highly in their favor. The number of children born out of wedlock, he assured us, was small; and it rarely happened that the parties did not marry, unless there was something highly objectionable in the character of the young woman, in whose favor the priest always exerted himself, if her previous conduct entitled her to his assistance. With respect to the married women, infidelity was scarce ever heard of; and as to peccadilloes, open and exposed as are potatoes, their "stuff of life," it was seldom known, even in times of

the greatest want, that their mounds were broken into. Wages were from ten pence to a shilling per day, but little work was to be had in winter. The manufacture of linen had increased, and the cultivation of flax was rapidly extending.

The moderation and good sense of this teacher of the Gospel interested us extremely. Happy would it be if the same benevolence and charity influenced all the disciples of Christianity! We received a very kind invitation to take refreshment with the family with whom he was to be an inmate.

Six miles from Ballinrobe, we joined the direct road from Castlebar; the change was very evident in the appearance of the surface, on leaving the bog and entering on the limestone country, the rock of which, in some places, is so near the surface as to have little or no covering of earth upon it, which yet produced most luxuriant herbage. In some spots it seemed to be entirely rock fringed with grass, as it was growing from the interstices of the limestone; the least mould or soil being sufficient to ensure a coat of verdure. The excellence of this pasture is proved by the ad-

mirable flavor of the mutton, which I do not think can be surpassed in any part of the world. As we approached this place we had a view of the upper and lower lakes of Lough Mask; the lower one is a large water. The trout of the upper lake are black, those of the lower yellow: the gillaroo trout are also found in this lake; both the red and the white weighing from two to twelve pounds; the white are the smallest, the red have no black spots. The largest of the gillaroo trout are said to have gizzards of greater size than those of the turkey, and that they are never to be found with any roe. This may probably be accounted for, by their remaining in deep water during the spawning season. There is likewise, by report, a large species of trout, weighing from twenty to thirty pounds, which have no gizzards.

Ballinrobe is a neat little town, and appears to have been recently much increased by new buildings. The limestone here is capable of making beautiful work; some of the door-cases were particularly handsome.

A large catholic chapel is now erecting, but

some difficulty has occurred in procuring funds for its completion.

The general poverty of the inhabitants may be inferred from seeing numbers of the lower classes bearing turf for the distance of two or three miles on their backs. In our northern climate one of the most important concerns in life is that of procuring fuel. The laboring people are often taken up with attending to this requisite when they ought to be securing their harvest. On making some inquiries of a poor man heavily laden with turf, he replied, "We work when we can get it, and keep ourselves warm when it is not to be had—thank God, we have no want of fuel." The bog here is of some extent, and is encompassed by the limestone rock; a number of small cabins are raised on its edge, which are separated from the road by a deep and wide ditch, over which the inhabitants had to scramble whenever they left home; this, though practicable for adults, seemed impossible to be attempted by children, who must be confined to the limits of the cabins, which, with their lowly inhabitants, were the poorest we had yet seen.

The inn here is clean and comfortable, and

328 *Clean and comfortable Accommodations.*

we fared sumptuously on the very best mutton I ever tasted. If I do not more frequently give you our bill of fare, it is because my great pleasure on all occasions is to commend. You will hear of me next time from Galway: till when, adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXVIII.

Galway, Sept. 6, 1813.

ON leaving Ballinrobe, the appearance of the country improved much: the enclosures on both sides are large; and though stone walls are not the most agreeable partitions, they are here unavoidable. The herbage of the fields was luxuriant, and the condition of the cattle and sheep did credit to the husbandry of the country.

The facility with which stock fattens on these pastures proves the superior value of their quality as feeding land, which lets from three to four pounds per acre, and accounts for the small proportion of it which is under the plough.

Grazing countries, requiring fewer laborers for their cultivation, are, comparatively speaking, always thinly inhabited.

We were concerned to observe that humble

340 *Mode of harvesting Corn in Ireland.*

as the cabins were which we had recently seen, those which we now passed had a still meaner appearance, differing in their construction by having hipped roofs; the consequence of some difficulty, I presume, attendant on raising the gable ends.

As soon as the crops of corn, which are principally oats, are cut and sheaved, they are immediately put together in pikes, the butts of the sheaves being placed on the outside for the purpose of withering and drying the grass with which they abound. The labor in bearing the sheaves to these pikes must be considerable; but the practice in so wet a climate is indispensable, as it effectually secures the grain from injury. This mode is not confined to Ireland, for it is the prevailing custom in South Wales; it is however consequent also on the humidity of that country, and is of itself a sufficient and satisfactory reason for keeping the land in pasture. We saw more wheat within a circuit of ten miles round Belleek, than we had observed in a preceding one of a hundred. At Shrale, seven miles on our way hither, are the ruins of a castle and abbey,

From Ballinrobe to Galway is twenty-five
the places for refreshing horses are very

mean. Cahirmorris is a wretched pot-house. The ruins of a fortified post, and of an abbey, bespeak it to have been a place of more consequence in former times.

We had very fine views from various parts of the road. The appearance of the broken limestone had in some instances a very singular effect. At first sight the country seemed to be perfectly desolate; a small portion of grass only was seen to spring from the fissures of the rock; yet scanty as was the quantity, such was its quality that the sheep seemed to thrive on the pasture it afforded.

Gregg Castle, the seat of Major Kirwan, is at a short distance from Cahirmorris. This gentleman, in having two thousand acres under his own management, worth from two to three pounds per acre, is reputed to be one of the greatest graziers in the country; he has frequently had two hundred head of oxen and four hundred sheep at Ballinasloe fair. I was sorry to pass this gentleman's place, having reason to believe we are both descended from the same ancestry, though we differ in the present orthography of our names. His acknowledged hospitality left no room to doubt of a kind reception.

242 *Delightful View of Lough Corrib.*

We have often to regret that we started so late in the autumn, as it compels us to leave much unseen, and to pass what we should gladly notice. The hope, however, of hearing from friends and of home, after so long an interruption of intercourse, superseded every other consideration, and made us most anxious to reach this place. I forbear to express how much we were disappointed in finding there were no letters waiting our arrival.

A few miles from Galway we had a delightful view of Lough Corrib, computed to be twenty miles in length, six miles wide in the broadest part, and estimated to cover a surface of thirty thousand acres. It is much interspersed with islands of different forms, which greatly contribute to its picturesque beauty. To the north of this great water, and not far distant from it, is Lough Mask. The gillaroo trout, and the pearl muscle, are found in both lakes.

The immediate approach to Galway exhibits the most singular appearance of country I ever beheld, bearing the appearance of its having been the seat of volcanic eruption. Blocks of limestone have been showered down in every direction; on some spots not a blade of grass, or the least sign of vegetation, is perceptible.

So desolate a scene of apparent ruins on a flat surface I never before saw ; and, instead of the view presenting the indications of a large and populous town, containing thirty thousand inhabitants, I should have supposed the place unpeopled, and in the most inhospitable region. The bay seems to have been the only inducement for its adoption as the site of a large town ; and even this may be objected to, as the approach to it is dangerous for ships exceeding a certain moderate draft of water. Newton, which is on the opposite side of the bay, is the principal resort for the shipping.

The town of Galway occupies a considerable extent of ground. The Irish town is of great length, and crowded with low, mean cabins, which shelter a numerous population, living apparently in great poverty. In the old town the houses are lofty, with their gable ends towards the streets, which are very narrow and dirty. The modern parts are in a much better style—the square is an airy spot, and when completed will be handsome. The jail is a fine modern building, and is well regulated. There are also a respectable garrison and considerable barracks. Too much in commendation of the quays cannot be said. The herring fishery is considerable ; yet to a stranger unconnected

344 *Little Respect paid to the Sabbath.*

with the interest, or business of the town, it must be an unpleasant residence. Land lets at the enormous rate of five to seven pounds per acre. It was late in the afternoon of yesterday before we arrived: our first object was the post-office; this took us through a great part of the town. We found the inns and public houses filled with a great number of noisy people; loaded carriages were passing and repassing; and, excepting the shops being shut, there was nothing to indicate being the Sabbath. In the afternoon, however, we had noticed what little respect was paid to the day: the household-work, so commonly allotted to Saturday, was performing in many instances, and numbers were at their accustomed labors in the fields. The chapels, however, in the morning seemed to be well attended.

The province of Ulster far exceeds in population and industry that of Connaught, although the latter possesses great capabilities for exertion, were they properly stimulated and brought forward. The manufacture of linen, and the several branches of trade connected with it, is making its way from the north to the southern parts of the Island.

The barony of Ballynahinch, or Connemora,

is in the most primitive state of any part of Ireland; it is but recently that there were roads for the admission of carts or carriages into it. The King's writs are said, in jest, not to run through Connomora. As a proof of the primitive manners of the Joices, the following account is given in a letter, published in C. Walker's Historical Essay on Dress, from a person said to have visited them in the year 1753 and 1754; and, though the letter is anonymous, I take it for granted its credit was fully established in the opinion of the publisher: "The heath or bushes, which they spread across the floor, is in length sufficient for the number present, and in breadth about six feet. Over this litter the mistress of the house laid part of a long plaid or blanket, on which the others, having stripped off their clothes, lay down as fast as they could, men and women together, all naked; then the mistress having drawn the rest of the blanket over them, lay down last herself, naked also. This they call a thoroughbed, and Mr. M. was the only person who had ever before worn a shirt in it."

Recent travellers, who have penetrated this western district, represent it as highly romantic, and possessing much grand and beautiful scenery. There are many very excellent har-

846 *English taught to the rising Generation.*

hours in this peninsula, that seem to offer means for extensive improvements, while the hospitality and civility of the inhabitants are highly extolled. Here the Irish language is universally spoken; so great, however, is the intercourse with Great Britain, as to impose the necessity on every one to speak English. There is nothing now to tempt the people to continue their native language; the rising generation apply themselves to learn English; and probably a century will not pass away, before the Irish will become obsolete. We met with few who did not understand English, and who seemed to have a pride in being able to speak it.

It is not improbable that, on the return of peace, some of our English manufacturers will be induced to attempt establishments in Ireland. The low price of labor tempted the translation of a part of the cotton trade from Manchester, to Paisley, Lanark, and Glasgow; the same enticement may operate in favor of this country on a future day. Is it not grievous to behold so robust so intelligent a people, pine away their lives in disgraceful apathy and inactivity?

If there be that sound sense in the old adage,

for which it long has had credit, that "idleness is the root of all evil," what crop of ill may not be expected hereafter to arise from the ramifications which are so rapidly extending from this lamentable cause throughout Ireland? This question, which I have before agitated in another form, again recurs. How can the celerity of its propagation be practically and prudently stopped? Would a conversion of the peasantry from the sickle to the shuttle, have the desired effect? Certainly not; if all the laborers in husbandry are to be made weavers in manufactories. But as there is not in Ireland a sufficient agricultural capital afloat to afford employment to the numerous individuals in that department, the redundancy of laborers should undoubtedly be provided with some other means of employ. There are various modes by which this important object might probably be accomplished. But I call the attention of those most immediately interested in furthering this patriotic measure to that particular vocation, most familiar to the present miserable habits of the cabin.

If, in addition to an extension of the staple manufacture of the country, those of woollen and cotton were judiciously established in appropriate places, to multitudes of children and

of adults might constant employment be given; while these very exertions would early operate a further demand for laborers in husbandry, by augmenting the demand of food from the soil. The earnings of children who had never before assisted but in the consumption of the produce of the parents' labor would soon repair the tattered roof, and dry the muddy floor. To these indispensable comforts would succeed, and such artificial wants, as honest pride, with moderation, might demand, and humanity gladden to see enjoyed.

A remedy for the evil of idleness may be undoubtedly thus be effected, to the great benefit of those whose wretchedness is not less a reproach to the empire, than it is creditable to the meritorious endurance of the present sufferers: to these it would first apply; and it is not unreasonable to indulge still further hopes in its future successful operation on posterity.

Pleasing as the contemplation of so much political good may be, yet, when it is regarded by the eye of the moralist, it may, by possibility, be seen in less attractive colours. Unquestionably, manufactures would produce profitable labor—profitable labor would create wealth—wealth artificial wants; yet these might gene-

rate vicious habits, to the destruction of all the true felicities of life. The sacrifice of domestic happiness in the cabin may be the price of fine clothes for children; or, in other words, the multiplication of wants, though justified by augmented earnings, is no security for the uninterrupted continuance of that sincerity of affection which now lightens the misery of the wet mud floor, by a participation in the wretchedness endured. The exposed cottier on the bog, unsheltered and unpossessed of comforts when at home, partakes more of the substantial blessings of man, than the well protected, well appointed artisan in the city with treble his earnings. The former is far removed from the casualties, which are closely impending over the head of the latter; and when those to which he is obnoxious threaten or assail him, he is better provided, by being aware of their approach. Compare the indulging, happy mother, existing only in her wretched cabin, with the high-fed alluring damsel partaking the luxuries of any great town. The exterior of the latter far surpasses that of the former—but how do they contrast in every quality that constitutes individual earthly happiness, and contributes to command respect?

On this view of the subject, I cannot but

250 *Manufactories destructive of rural Felicity.*

hesitate, after what I have seen, in pronouncing for an extension of manufactories in Ireland; because I am most sincerely desirous that its numerous peasantry should continue to retain the full possession of their present moral feelings, which I am fearful the change might destroy. And yet, I would fain hope, a supply of constant employment, and a consequent elevation from their present ignoble state, when regarded as human beings like ourselves, might not on making the experiment be found incompatible. If we reason like patriots, we must decide politically; if as moralists, we must not be surprised should the doctrines be found at variance with each other.

I could not help being amused on being told by one, who asserted it to be true, that the letting out silk stockings for Sundays, and supplying paint to disfigure the female face, were two lucrative employments at Glasgow and Paisley; that rouge was sold under the name of "the thing;" for though the women did not blush in wearing it, they felt ashamed in asking for it by its proper name.

As an argument against the rents in Ireland being too high, it is contended that there are numerous competitors for every farm which

may be to be let. This is a specious plea, and is founded in fact, though the conclusion attempted to be drawn from it is erroneous. It is the pressure of the population, and the anxiety of parties to obtain an establishment at all events, that produce the competition, which enhances the rent of land so much above its intrinsic value to the occupier.

The late and present times have much favored the tenantry. Peace, which it is eagerly hoped may restore repose to Europe, must here fail of its benign effects. It will then be discovered that the existing rents can by no sacrifices of the people be paid. Reasonable rents and a substantial tenantry are certainly the most desirable objects of attention, when the permanent prosperity of the proprietor and the occupier of the land is fairly taken into consideration. The land round the town lets from seven to eight pounds the acre! The rotation of crops, after paring and burning, is first potatoes, succeeded by barley; then oats; the next year the land is fallowed, after which it is sown with wheat, and laid down with grass seeds, among which clover is seldom mixed. Many large farms are rented at three pounds an acre for the arable; and from six to seven is given for the meadow lands.

352 *Extract from Moryson on Occupations.*

“ The lords of the land and the freeholders,” we are informed by Moryson, “ do not there use to set out their lands on farme, or for terme of years to their tenants, but only from year to year during pleasure; neither indeed will the Irish tenant or husbandman otherwise take the land than so long as he list himself. The reason thereof in the tenant is, that the landlords there use most shamefully to rack their tenants, laying upon them coigne and livery at pleasure; so that the poor husbandman either does not bind himselfe to him for longer terme, or thinketh by his continual liberty of change, to keep the landlord rather in awe from wronging him: and the reason why the landlord will no longer covenant with him is, for that he dayly looketh after change and alteration, and hovereth in expectation of new.

“ For when his tenant’s termes shall be expired, it will yeild him in the renewing his lease both a good fine and also a better rent; and it shall be for the good of the tenant likewise, who by such buildings and inclosures shall receive many benefits; first by the handsomeness of his house he shall take more comfort of his life, more safe dwelling, and a delight to have his solid house neat and cleanly, which now being as they commonly are rather swyne styres, their houses

is the chiefest cause of his so beastly manner of life and savage condition, laying and living together with his beasts in one house, in one room, in one bed, that is, clean straw, or rather a foul dunghill."

Mr. William Jordan is engaged in a most Herculean task. He is blasting rock, which encumbers the ground, at an expense of one hundred pounds an acre, for which he pays a rent of five pounds per acre on a ninety years' lease. To dispose of the broken stones, walls are made with them to separate fields of two or three acres, seven feet thick and twelve feet high, so that, including this sacrifice of the ground, the total amount of his yearly rent can be little less than eleven pounds per acre; to which ought to be added a sum, the accumulation of which at the end of his term would repay the one hundred pounds expense per acre in blasting the stones. Mr. Jordan has a house near the spot, or it is not likely he would have engaged in such a speculation.

Instances are occasionally produced of some of the farmers becoming wealthy. This may be accounted for by long leases having been obtained when land was of little value, the possessors of which, by care and industry, having

354 *Some Instances of Farmers becoming rich.*

availed themselves of the events of late years, so propitious to farming undertakings: but I should think it difficult to produce many instances of an independency being obtained by the occupation of farming at the present advanced rents.

The county gaol is particularly well constructed, and has the advantage of being both well warmed and ventilated.

If your patience be not long since exhausted the fault is not mine! I think you will admit I have taken pains enough to effect it; though none are requisite to assure you that I am always
yours. Adieu!

J. C. C.

LETTER XXIX.

Ennis, Sept. 7, 1813.

THE fabrication of news appears to be a thriving trade in this country, if we may judge by the avidity with which it is purchased. Few towns of any size are without their weekly papers, and perhaps two; for the general state and feeling of parties here are such, that no sophistry could produce a palatable cookery that would be relished by both. I know not whether the remark applied to attorneys is equally appropriate to editors, "that a single one starves, but that two make fortunes."

I have heard an anecdote of two farmers, who on having some trifling dispute, by accident resorted to the same lawyer. After hearing the whole story from the second client, he lamented it was not in his power to be of use to him, but that he would give him a note to a friend of his hard by, a most able and honorable man, to whom the party might safely trust his cause. As the note could appertain to no one but

himself, he made free with the seal, and after reading, "Two geese from the country have quarrelled, good brother: I'll pluck the one, and have sent you the other," he thought it most prudent to exhibit the note, and make offer of a conciliatory shake of the hand, which was wisely accepted by his neighbour.

Serious evils arise from the luxuriant produce of those weekly hotbeds of intemperance: prejudices are fomented and fortified—discord perpetuated—every object seen, every circumstance heard, is distorted, and truth suffocated or wholly extinguished on both sides. If the state of the press could be considered as a fair indication on which to form an opinion of the refinement in the manners of a people, the result would by no means be favorable to Ireland. The insufferable vulgar abuse which is so liberally bestowed on the late Lord-lieutenant, is too contemptible to be worthy the attention even of his adversaries: the absence as well of wit to excite risibility, as of argument to elicit a reply, evinces the editor's stupidity, as well as that of his reading. The enthusiasm of party devotedness disqualifies both sides from the fair exercise of their judgment, and blinds them to all objects not presented to their view in their own favorite colors. The supporters of government

are so fulsomely lavish of indiscriminate praise, that merited commendations are unheeded, and, instead of leading to favorable conclusions, nauseate and dispose the reader to view the whole as abject flattery deserving only of contempt.

In the suspicion of similar views, with which public praise is always accompanied, I am ready to admit the attempt to be a much more difficult task than that of slander. The style and tone of the periodical prints are here far below the provincial papers in England. A show, at least, of argument and reason is necessary there, to satisfy even those who are most decided in their opinions, and to ensure a favorable reception.

Some of the advertisements we have lately seen are amusing, and prove that haste and want of care subject parties to similar mistakes in their writings, with those for which they have long been renowned in their conversation. In one instance, fifty pounds reward is offered when a person accused of murder "*will be* lodged in prison." In another, a gentleman cautions his tenants "*not to burn the mountains.*"

The carriage most in vogue is the jaunting car, which is calculated to carry four persons and the driver; kind-hearted as the Irish are in general, they appear to have little feeling or consideration for the brute creation. Their horses are hard driven, and ill taken care of—the stabling is universally bad, and the grooming execrable. We complain not—we continue to get through our difficulties, and laugh at them—but a night does not pass in which I do not feel very severely on account of our poor horses.

Two causes, from which spring most of the comforts of life, are unknown here—I mean *forethought and order*; if there be a bell, for instance, the chances are in favor of there being no pull to it, or that the wires are broken. The hours are preposterously late, the dinner hour is generally six o'clock. In former times the Irish are represented as having two meals a day, one in the winter before day-light; the other, and principal one, late in the evening. At Galway the play did not commence till after eight, and was not finished till near two the next morning.

Our road hither was round the head of the

bay, after which we found ourselves on a most extensive flat, the greater part of which was pasture enclosed by stone fences, without the appearance of either tree or shrub. Several castellated towers, but apparently of no great size, were observed as we passed on our way. Cromwell's description of this country is very characteristic—"That it had not sufficient wood to hang a man—water to drown him—or earth to bury him." The pastures, from a long continuance of dry weather, an evil with which the country is seldom afflicted, had put on an unusual dingy appearance. Scarcely a human habitation was to be seen. At the extremity of the plain the ground rises; and after gaining the top of the ascent, we were agreeably surprised by entering on another plain, extremely fertile, richly cropped, and thickly inhabited.

Mr. O'Hara's seat has extensive plantations. The general style of the cultivation was good and well conducted; the fallows were better ploughed, than any which we had yet seen. Adjoining to this place is Croft Lodge, belonging to Mr. Gregory. Much was done here by the father of the present possessor; the woods are getting up, and the face of the country is so improved as to be entirely changed in its ap-

pearance since the purchase of it about forty years ago by that gentleman.

Gort is a neat little town; many of the buildings seem of modern date. There are a great number of resident gentlemen in the county of Galway. Two miles from Gort is the celebrated round tower of Kilmacdnaugh, which is said to be composed of prodigiously large stones.

The height is one hundred and twelve feet; it is reported to be seventeen feet out of its perpendicular position. The Campanile, at Pisa, called "the Leaning Tower," is said to be only fourteen feet from the perpendicular, though one hundred and eighty feet high. There are on this spot no less than seven churches, containing many curious relics of antiquity. The road to it was so very bad that we were compelled, most reluctantly, to relinquish the desire we had of visiting this extraordinary place; of which, however, we had a very complete view from the new road. The land near Gort is let for forty shillings per acre. A composition in lieu of tithes is fixed at eight shillings per acre for wheat, barley, flax, and potatoes. Some of the farms are said to be of considerable extent.

I cannot help remarking one piece of extravagance which we noticed—the magnificent gate-posts in the fields;—to which the larger proportion had no gate appendant. As a substitute we have often seen the Irish car doing duty in the gate-way.

The country, for some little distance before we arrived at Ennis, is broken into a variety of hills, on which the crops appeared to be very good. The immediate approach to the town is delightful; every cabin has its garden, and these we were gratified in seeing highly cultivated. Such an appearance of comfort we had not before witnessed. The town is celebrated for its onions, the growth of which is much attended to, and they are sent to other parts of Ireland from this neighbourhood. There seems to be also a great profusion of the common fruits. I do not know that I was ever more pleased with the entrance to any town. In itself, Ennis is tolerably neat, and has a thriving appearance; it has a communication by water with the Shannon, at the distance of two miles. The remains of an abbey, in the best style of architecture of any Gothic building we had yet seen, we had an opportunity of observing at Clare. Within two miles of the town is the castle of Ennis; as a source of in-

362 *First Turnpikes between Gort and Ennis.*

fluence to government, the appointments about it may have utility to them, but it would be difficult to discover any other.

The recent act against illicit distillation, imposing fines on the parishes where private stills are discovered, has created much discontent. The people cannot be reconciled to sugar whiskey—potcheene is their darling liquor. We offered some whiskey to a fruit woman, which she refused; exclaiming "The country was in danger of being poisoned by the abominable parliament combustible stuff"—but as soon as she understood it to be real honest potcheene, she received it with great courtesy. On the whole the comparative comfort which pervades all classes here makes Ennis one of the most interesting little places we have yet seen.

The first turnpikes we have met with are between this town and Gort; and I must say, at the same time, that in the three hundred miles we have travelled, this is among the worst specimens of road we have encountered. A serious evil attends the rearing of cabins close to the high roads. The children make them their play-ground, and heap on them numbers of stones in various directions, so as

to require great attention in driving, to avoid them. The inconvenience is especially found as the day closes,—it is incumbent on the surveyors of the highways, or the persons charged with the care of them, to have this nuisance removed. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXX.

Limerick, Sept. 8, 1813.

IN the neighbourhood of Ennis there are many great dairy-farms; and though there did not appear to be any impediment to the making of good cheese, the produce from the cows was almost exclusively employed in making butter. No attention at present is paid to the selection of stock, the greater proportion of the milch cows being from the Kerry breed, which are very neat small animals, much resembling the Kylo, though the land on which they depasture is admirable, and equal to sustain the largest species of cattle.

Sir Edward O'Brian's beautiful seat of Dromoland is about four miles from Ennis. The house seems modern; great additions have lately been made to the pleasure grounds, and the plantations are extensive over the domain, which is happily broken into great inequality of surface. Sir Edward farms on a large scale; last year he grew one hundred

and twenty acres of wheat, and his green crops bore a good proportion to those of his grain. One hundred head of oxen are fed annually for market, besides a great number of sheep. A grass farm adjoining his residence is now to be let; the rent demanded is six guineas per acre, which is four times as much rent as Mr. A. Young speaks of in the year 1778. I certainly do not know of a soil superior in quality: as a proof of the value in which it is held, a level has been driven in limestone for a considerable way in order to drain a few acres of it, which were liable to be flooded.

Great improvements are making in the road near Dromoland, and a large cut is nearly completed, which will considerably reduce the ascent of the hill. We stopped to take a view of the mode in which the work proceeded, by a number of laborers, under the superintendence of a manager. It was really farcical to observe half a dozen stout fellows loading a car, each not lifting, at any time, more than five pounds weight in their shovels; two English laborers would have done more in the same time than all six. The poor fellows petitioned very earnestly for tobacco; but they would have been much affronted to have had it supposed they

were capable of begging. Their wages were thirteen pence a day.

As there was no other place where our horses could be fed, we breakfasted at Newmarket, though but eight miles from Ennis. The country we had passed through was very rich and beautiful, and the inn at Newmarket neat and orderly.

The new road to Limerick is quite flat, and but twelve miles; the old one fourteen, and very hilly. We were led by the absence of guide posts into the old road, and while our distressed horses suffered by climbing over Clonnelly hill, we became gratified by a noble prospect of the Shannon, from Limerick to Foyle's Island, at the distance of nearly thirty miles. At the foot of this hill is Bonnally the seat of the O'Brians, the Princes of Thomond.

Meadow land here is from six to seven pounds an acre: the grass is sold and made into hay by the purchaser, who pikes it on the ground, and there it remains until it is paid for; this arrangement accounts for our seeing so much unstacked. Indeed the general management in matters of husbandry is very

wretched. Nothing can be less excusable than the neglected state of the grounds within four miles of Limerick, notwithstanding the excessive price at which they are rented. The potatoes are cultivated in lazy beds of an undue proportional width, which must be highly prejudicial to the crop, while the want of thatching to the ricks of grain must subject the farmers to loss, against which the enormous rents and small produce might be supposed to be a sufficient guarantee.

The hills which extend from Clonnelly to Limerick were covered with coppice wood. We found the peasantry busily employed in threshing out their grain in the open fields: their cabins seemed to be extremely poor and wretched; and, if I am correct in estimating the general poverty of the inhabitants by the appearance of the sex, whose hair was no longer the object of their attention, but hung in disfiguring disorder and neglect, I should conclude the people of these southern districts to suffer more privations than those in the north.

Our entrance by the Irish town, for so a part of the city of Limerick is denominated, disclosed to view all that is mean, poor, and

beggarly, by no means corresponding with the expectations we had formed: the streets were narrow, dirty, and crowded with passengers or spectators, among whom were observed many of the "swinish multitude," which seemed not only to mix with great familiarity with their biped associates, but successfully to dispute their right of precedence on many occasions.

The new town is quite of a different description. The streets are spacious, houses handsome, and shops elegant. The quays are extensive and roomy, warehouses large, and every object indicates the presence of much business in the external and internal trade and commerce of the country, which, we understood, had within these few years been greatly increased.

Limerick, from the earliest settlement of the English in Ireland, was considered as one of the most important stations in that country, in point of strength and the facilities it possessed for trade.

A woful example of the blindness and bigotry of the system pursued towards this country occurs in the second year of the reign of Queen Anne, when an act passed in which it is pro-

vided, "that no Papist, excepting laborers and fishermen, shall reside therein (Limerick) as housekeepers; nor are they to rent any tenement above forty shillings a-year." It seems not to have occurred to the politicians of those days, that consulting the feelings and courting the interests of mankind, were the most effectual means of securing the affections and attachment of a nation.

The Shannon is a noble river: it derives its source from the mountains near Swadlingbar, passes through the Loughs of Allen and Ree, and thence through Limerick, to the great Western Ocean, a course of one hundred and ninety miles. The fall of its waters, in the distance of the first one hundred and twenty-eight miles, is one hundred and fifty-one feet. It is navigable from Limerick only to the sea, a distance of about sixty-three miles; and near the city, its banks are highly ornamented by residences of opulent persons. A communication by means of the "Grand Canal" will be effected between this city and Dublin as soon as the canal is finished, which still wants fourteen miles of cutting to complete this important work.

There are a number of respectable families:

settled in Limerick, which make it a place of very agreeable residence. The cathedral is a large building, and is kept very clean, though it is of inferior architecture. The public rooms do great credit to the town. The Custom House and new prison are sumptuous buildings. Much grain is exported from this place: thirty-six thousand barrels are at this time shipping for Spain. "In times of peace," says Moryson, "the Irish transport good quantity of corne; yet they may not transport it without license, lest on any sudden rebellion, the King's forces and his good subjects should want corne." Cruelty and tyranny seem to have assailed this devoted country at all times. The population of Limerick is estimated at fifty thousand souls. Our friend Mr. John Thompson, who about thirty years ago visited Limerick with commercial views, and who married a lady from this city, remembers when there were but two families residing here who had their dinners cooked with coal, (viz.) the Bishop's, and a Captain Hill's, it being at that time a received opinion, that coal gave a disagreeable flavor to the meat. At present, if the very poorest houses be excepted, turf is nowhere used for culinary purposes. This circumstance will serve to convey some idea not only of the great increase of the town, where numerous families

now burn nothing but coal, but of the opulence and luxury of the inhabitants, when compared to their means only thirty years ago.

The Golden Vale, which forms a part of this county, is no where surpassed in richness of soil; yet are there very many acres of indifferent land, well cultivated, which produce more abundant crops. Where nature does so much, man seems to consider there is no demand on his industry; and by making no exertions, he loses the riches placed within his power. The absence of industry, capital, and skill, render the bounty of Providence almost a nullity. The crops of grain are smothered with docks, while the hay is bleaching for want of stacking. Soil of the first quality is brought down to the standard of very indifferent land in Great Britain. Not a green crop have we seen, but those of Sir Edward O'Brien, since I noticed those of Mr. Wynne. Such is the condition of this glorious district, which, in its present state, cannot be seen without the deepest regret.

Splendid equipages are no uncommon sight at Limerick: the motto on one of them made a forcible impression on my mind—"Live, and let live." Whether this carriage was the property of an Irish landholder, or a motto of one

372 *Precedent for depriving the Irish of Arms.*

who was not, and intended as a satire on the existing state of things in the country, was more than I could determine.

Limerick is enviably situated, possessing great local advantages for trade, as well as the conveniences, the comforts, and luxuries of life. The rent of the best houses is two hundred pounds a-year. Fuel is dear, which seems the only circumstance to prevent its being considered not only a pleasant, but an economical place of residence. In Swinburn's hotel are united every comfort: it is under admirable regulations, and may rank with similar establishments of the kind in any country.

I had almost forgotten to mention that the garrison here is considerable, and the barracks extensive.

The recent acts by which the people have been deprived of their arms, has a precedent in the 10th of Henry the Seventh, which orders, "That no manner of person or persons, from this time forward, shall retain or keep in his house, garrison, or place, any ordnance or artillery; that is to say, great gun, or hand gun, except only long bows, arrows, and bills, upon pain of forfeiting the said ordnance."

“ In the year 1489, during the reign of Henry the Eighth,” says Harris, “ the first musquets or fire-arms that perhaps were ever seen in Ireland, were brought from Germany, and six of these, as a great rarity, were presented to Gerald Earl of Kildare, then Lord Deputy, which were put into the hands of his guards, and they stood guard before his house in Thomas-street.”

Had time permitted our stay here, we could have passed some days most agreeably ; but limited as we are, we must press forward ; and the same reason will relieve you from more of my remarks at present, saving the sincere assurance of my being always yours.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXXI.

Castle Isle, Sept. 9, 1813.

THE valley of Limerick, so celebrated for its beauty and fertility, is much indebted to the latter for all it possesses of the former, as it is a flat, plain surface, of considerable extent, stretching with few interruptions to the southward, from the borders of the Shannon to Newcastle. Slovenly and bad as was the management of the land before our arrival in Limerick, on our departure, as far as we had an opportunity of observing, it was equally censurable; nor do I conceive I hazard being unjust in supposing it to be a fair sample of the agriculture we shall meet in this most fertile level.

A great number of orchards very agreeably presented themselves, in which the trees were heavily laden with fruit. This was no less a pleasing than an uncommon sight, and must, in the spring of the year, when the trees are in blossom, highly contribute to that beauty which the valley is reputed to possess. As orchards add considerably to the comforts

of all classes, it is matter of surprise they are not more generally introduced in Ireland, as they yearly produce a crop with little more trouble or expense than that of harvesting their produce.

Although we had frequently in our view, and especially in the neighbourhood of Limerick, a number of gentlemen's seats, many of which seemed to possess considerable domains, and to be ornamented with stately timber and extensive plantations; yet the general level surface, though gratifying to the observation of a farmer from the richness and fertility of the soil, wanted something more to afford entertainment to the eye, which can luxuriate only in the bold and diversified features of nature.

Opulence, in the vicinage of large commercial places, is ever conspicuous in the neatness and elegance which characterize the competence or wealth of the respective possessors, in the decorations of their country retirements, and costly relaxations from the labors of business; yet here the cabins under their windows, instead of partaking in the general good which fortune so liberally distributes, seem to suffer in an inverse ratio to her splendid dispensations. This opinion cannot be more accurately con-

firmed than by stating that on the examination of one of these wretched abodes, which was no worse than its neighbours, we found its floor one foot below the surface of the road, from which it is entered by a door only three feet high; the inside, from the bare ground to the top of the roof—four feet; the length of the side walls nine; the width six. This area, wholly destitute of all earthly comforts, gave shelter to two rational beings, and was their only house, though scarcely fit for the den of a wild beast. The plenty which surrounded this deplorable hut, and the sumptuous display of other men's habitations within its view, did but aggravate the melancholy feelings inspired by this scene of human misery; on every side of which the most luxuriant crops were ripening for general use, yet denied to these individuals, whose labors, perhaps, had contributed to their production. Let the pleasures derived from passing through an interesting country be what they may—let the bounties of Providence be ever so abundantly spread before the eye—yet, if these fail to promote the general welfare of our fellow-creatures, the charms of Nature, or decorations of art, however entitled to admiration, become clouded, or entirely obscured.

We stopped to breakfast at Adair, fourteen

miles on our way from Limerick. The noble woods and extensive ruins that surround the site of Castle Desmond, convey lofty ideas of the splendor which preceded the misfortunes of the Desmond family, whose efforts, about three hundred years ago, made so conspicuous a figure in the annals of the country.

The architecture of the religious houses is in a superior style of Gothic to any thing we have hitherto met with in Ireland. The chapel of one of the monasteries has been recently repaired by Lord Adair, and reflects great credit on his Lordship's taste and liberality. On the death of the Earl of Desmond in the year 1583, the title and patrimonial property, consisting of five hundred and seventy-four thousand acres, were forfeited, at which time estates amounting to two hundred and thirty-seven thousand acres were granted to Sir William Herbert, Charles Herbert, and others, with a reserved rent of two thousand three hundred and seventy-two pounds eighteen shillings and six-pence. During the unfortunate rebellion, which was the destruction of this noble family, the number of cattle which at times were taken by adverse parties seems incredible: on one occasion two thousand cows, four thousand sheep, and one

one thousand garrons (horses), are reported to have been carried off by the conquering army.

The appearance of this spot infused more favorable ideas of the improvements in the country than the specimens which we had already seen gave us reason to expect.

St. Patrick's well, at a short distance from Adair, still continues to be held in high veneration for the miraculous curative power of its waters. Credulity may generally be esteemed as the associate of ignorance, and in most cases claims more pity than censure. The exaltation and accession of intelligence to the human mind during the last half century is wonderful. **An equal period of time may reasonably be expected to unrivet, if not completely remove, the chains by which the influence of superstition has so long degraded the uneducated. At the southern extremity of the village, a chapel, formerly appertaining to another monastery, was presented by the Adair family, and by them fitted up as a place of worship.**

Oxen are worked by some of the farmers in this neighbourhood. At a little distance from the town are a number of neat cottages, erected

by Lord Adair for the residence of his laborers. How delightful to behold such sights!

On quitting Adair, the country became less fertile until our approach towards Rathkeel, when we were gratified by the sight of a better soil and an improved management. Very many acres of potatoes were drilled, and, though somewhat too late, the farmers were earthing them up with the plough. The adoption of any mode which would accelerate the harvest in Ireland, would be attended with important advantages. The wetness of the spring season is here of itself sufficient to induce winter ploughing. By this practice in the north of England, nearly three weeks has been gained in the time of harvest; and I can see no reason why this country should be later than Cumberland. The frosts in April and in May sometimes injure the potatoes with us: the mildness of the climate here precludes any apprehension of this sort, and is a further inducement for early planting, which, from prejudice or want of exertion, is not often concluded before the middle of May.

We were not permitted long to enjoy the pleasure of observing practices entitled to be called management; the reverse attended us

during the six miles to Newcastle, over a dead uninteresting flat from Rathkeel, the road through which place exposed us to no small jeopardy; for although the town is of considerable extent, and very populous, the streets for a carriage are nearly impassable. It seems incomprehensible, in a country where the roads are so generally good, that such a nuisance through a large town should be tolerated.

Newcastle is but a small place, though greatly increased of late years in consequence of the new line of road by Tralee and Dingle to Killarney. A wish to spare our horses induced us to prefer the shortest road, by Castle Isle, which we have had more causes than one to regret.

On quitting Newcastle, the ascent from the foot of the Kerry mountains commenced. We understood that three pounds for rent, and ten shillings per acre for tithes, were the customary prices of the land. The value of tithes varies according as they are held by ecclesiastics, or let to proctors—as the lessees, or holders of tithes are here called. Were the clergy resident in their respective parishes, and could they be induced to attend to their own concerns, the tyranny at present usurped in letting and collecting their tithes could not be practised.

The Kerry mountains afford pasture to numerous herds of cattle, which, having hitherto been little attended to, are inferior in shape to the breed of the Kyles, though they bear to them a strong resemblance. Only two distinct breeds of cattle have yet come under our observation, the long-horned and the Kerry; and it appears not impossible, that the long-horned breed was first introduced into England from hence. Much pains have recently been bestowed here on improving the long-horned breed, by the importation of the best bulls that could be procured from Leicestershire. The luxuriant herbage of the pastures, in this part of the island, cannot fail to reward the judicious efforts made by the graziers, and of producing fine specimens of any cattle; but I cannot help considering those of the long-horned breed slow feeders, late in coming to maturity, and on the whole to be an unprofitable stock, when compared with those from Holderness and Durham.

Our road continued for ten miles very mountainous to Abbey Feal, where we breakfasted. Great part of the property through which we passed, recently appertained to Lord Courtenay. It was lately sold in lots, which were principally purchased by the tenantry. A division of landed property would highly

contribute to an extended cultivation and the general prosperity of Ireland, by the introduction of gradations in society, which at present do not exist. The distance now between high and low—the few and the many, is so great as to preclude the practices or habits of the one from influencing or producing any benefit to the other. The first change likely to create emulation, and awaken the subordinate classes to improvement, will be that of seeing those of their own order daily acquiring an augmentation of comforts, by the profitable results of their own exertions.

To the subdivision of the land in Great Britain, among all ranks, may be referred that independence of character in the people, and that general improvement over the face of the country, which excite the admiration of foreigners. This distribution is not less contributory to the support of the state, than it is beneficial to the subject. The possession of property, and particularly of this description, is ever accompanied by an honest pride, which stimulates the owner to be a fit successor to that station in society he may hereafter fill. This happy disposition is amply rewarded by acquisitions in the rising generation—by a tenacious regard to character, and a cheerful submission

to the laws, ensuring at the same time individual happiness, and national prosperity.

As the same causes are known to produce the same effects, may we not reasonably indulge in the hope, that were portions of the unwieldly estates in Ireland thus allotted and sold off, like the Courténay property, the same happy consequences as in England would result to this country. At any rate the experiment might be worth making, as the increased value of the central part retained, would recompense the proprietor for any loss which might be sustained by a sale of the outskirts.

A short distance from Abbey Feal, we had a considerable hill to ascend. The valley is narrow, and confined on both sides. Whether we were indebted purely to chance, or to the courtesy of the proprietor of a beautiful cottage on the opposite bank of the river, I cannot decide; but either the report of a cannon, or the blasting of rock, produced a most astonishing effect, in the repetition of the echo, at various points, for some seconds.

Abbey Feal is a very small place, the accommodations wretched. For the comfort of future travellers a new inn is building, and in great

forwardness. I am sensible that the cursory information obtained by persons like ourselves, passing hastily through a country, ought always to be received with great caution; and I would willingly hope, that an account detailed by a stranger, who joined us on the road, was much exaggerated. He stated that in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, forty shillings for tithes had been exacted for an acre of potatoes by a proctor, who rented the tithes from the rector, on very reasonable terms, which made the hardship on the poor cottier so much the greater. The blame of extortion is seldom found with justice imputable to the clergy; the abuse is created by those who act under their authority, whose greediness and want of feeling for those whom they oppress know no bounds.

The less duty incumbent on the ministers of the church of England, for promoting the spiritual interests, the more scrupulous ought those members be, to take care that the temporal concerns of their parishioners do not suffer by a delegation of their powers to unfit persons. The Bishop of Elphin's remark, I mean the late Dr. Law, is worthy of being recorded in the heart of every protestant clergyman. On observing, that as he had no chance

of making protestants of the people, in his diocese, "I will do all I can," said he, "to make them good catholics."

The composition generally paid for tithes in Ireland is considerably higher than in England. Nothing, it is generally allowed, would be more desirable to the clergy of both countries, or more advantageous to their spiritual and temporal interests, than a general commutation of tithes. The want of this most salutary measure falls particularly hard on the small farmer; it has occasioned many of the unfortunate commotions in this country, and will continue to agitate the public mind until a remedy for the evil be applied.

The cultivation of flax is extending towards the south of Ireland. A great quantity of linen is now manufactured in Kerry. The commencement of this valuable trade in Ireland may be referred to the seventh and eighth of William the Third, when all productions of hemp and flax were allowed to be exported to England and the British plantations free of duty. "Mr. Dobbs, an able and impartial inquirer, computed that in less than forty years the home consumption and export of linen amounted to a million sterling, and this from

386 *Droves of Cattle destined to no Market.*

the produce of thirty thousand acres; employing one hundred and seventy thousand persons.” *

We had ten miles of very mountainous country to Castle Isle, where we expected to meet with some comforts, but in which we were grievously disappointed. Bad as inns have sometimes been, Castle Isle is ten times worse. In the course of the day we had met several droves of cattle, destined to no specific market, but travelling through the country for sale. The owners of these beasts ought to be endowed with an uncommon share of patience to wait the tardy disposal of such numbers to individual customers, with whom no competition would be found to quicken the market. A number of goats, mostly coupled together to prevent their depredations, are kept by the cottiers; these browse on the scanty herbage of a most deplorable looking country, in which but few enclosures are to be seen. The constant presence of water renders the crops very poor and stunted; even the grass, in some of the meadows which we saw cutting, would scarcely cover the scythe. Draining here, which might be accomplished by a certain advance of capital, would amply repay the proprietor.—Lord Eardly, of course an absentee, is not likely to further

* Campbell's Political Survey.

so remote an undertaking, and misery and poverty will continue to distinguish the property.

Poverty most commonly operates, not only to depress, but to degrade our fellow creature; for when all his efforts are only sufficient to procure that scanty subsistence which barely prevents his family from starving, all hope of bettering his own condition, or assisting that of his offspring, seems totally lost—he becomes wholly indifferent to the concerns of life. Thus we were arguing, when an unlooked-for incident produced a solitary cheering gleam, and gave us reason to rejoice that on the present occasion we had somewhat miscalculated. In a small cabin, close to the side of the road, we discovered a school, where about thirty children were teaching. The boy, who was occupying the immediate attention of the master, was hurrying over some verses in the Bible, with a rapidity that outstripped the ear of ordinary attention; leaving a doubt, whether it was English or Irish on which he was employed; which being intimated to the master, seemed to give offence. But on our inspecting their performances in writing, I was enabled to make my peace with the good man, by justly complimenting the teacher, and rewarding

338 *Meritorious Sacrifice of Earnings by Cottiers*

some of the scholars. The cost of this education, which continues during the summer only, was small, though great when compared with the means of those at whose expense it was furnished. In a country thinly inhabited; many of the children had a considerable distance to travel, which, in the winter, precluded their attendance, and during these months the master resided with some of the little farmers, and taught their children for his maintenance. He had never heard of Dr. Bell's or of Mr. Lancaster's mode of instruction. I was, however, agreeably surprised to find the cultivation of the mind attended to, where every thing else seemed to be neglected. Friendless, unassisted, without patron or adventitious support, thus to make sacrifice of a portion of earnings, at all times unequal to the absolute wants, for the purpose of obtaining what knowledge came within their reach, is an effort of great affection on the part of the parents. If this feeling be so cherished in one of the most forlorn districts, a hope may surely be entertained that the value of learning is, or soon will be, appreciated by all classes and in all quarters of this prolific island.

Through most parts of the country we have passed, we have discovered no disinclination

in the parents to afford their children the benefit of education, nor did we suspect there was any want of schools.

All past experience sanctions the gratifying belief that in proportion as the knowledge of man is advanced, so is his estimability and happiness increased. The causes which for years have so widely diffused the present wretchedness over one of the most fertile countries of Europe, will naturally become developed as the expansion of the mind proceeds to establish this very important conviction—that all the evils so much to be deplored have their origin in self creation, arising from the absence of moral rectitude, principle, and restraint. Nothing is more easy or less common than to shift the censure from ourselves to the operations of the state : I am not disposed to exempt government from its share of blame ; but the real and substantial cause of Irish misery has its origin in its redundant population. Absenteeship, and the too general neglect on the part of the higher to the comforts of the lower classes, as well as their own, though undoubtedly grievances, are of minor consideration in the great scale of their sufferings. To avert the further accumulation of distress, and the calamities which are daily increasing, the great body of the people must be made sensible that the source whence all their miseries

390 *Reformation in Manners a slow Operation.*

arise is their predilection for improvident and premature marriages. Education cannot fail of inculcating the advantages resulting from a due obedience to the will of God, and a cheerful compliance with the laws of man. A fundamental change, a thorough reform of habits and opinions, is the work of ages, and can only be effected by a gentle and slow operation. It is above the power of government to effect by legislation such a radical reform. Example, encouragement, and patronage, may greatly promote it, but the work must be performed, as in all other laborious undertakings, by the people; and, happily, they evince a kindly disposition to assist a revolution so interesting to every friend of humanity.

We had scarcely travelled a mile from the spot which had afforded us so unlooked-for a source of gratification, when we had an excitement of feeling of a very different kind. Our attention was called to one of those scenes which unfortunately are so common in this country. A poor woman of about forty came from a cabin at a little distance from the road, assisted by a girl about eight or nine years of age. When the carriage came opposite to her, the poor creature fell on her knees, and lifted up her hands with a fervency of supplication that indicated the extreme of distress, proceeding

either from an intensity of misery, or the most subtle and refined hypocrisy: the least reflection, however, decided in favor of the former; for considering the few opportunities which could be afforded for the successful effect of the best acting, the practice could not be made to answer. The figure and deportment of the pitiable mendicant were sufficient evidence of the reality of her sorrows: the cause of which we had no opportunity of learning, but their impression will not readily be effaced.

At Raithkeele we took leave of the limestone substratum over which we had travelled almost one hundred miles, and which in some places stretched nearly across the island.

At Castle Isle we understood we should meet it again. The whole town is built with limestone, surrounded by morass, so that it may be described an island of limestone, in the centre of an ocean of bog.

Two miles from Castle Isle is an ascent of more than a mile: after gaining the summit we had a most extensive plain below us, bounded by a lofty chain of mountains, which surround the lake of Killarney, and extend towards Bantry Bay. Castle Isle was formerly the county town,

and a very thriving, opulent place; at present it is almost in a dilapidated state: nothing can exceed the misery it exhibits as a town; and I am constrained to add, that the inn was in strict conformity with its general appearance.

The court-house is unroofed, and the walls nearly down; nor has the general state of devastation spared even the church, notwithstanding the living is of considerable value. The rector is non-resident, and the church seems likely soon to decay. The property belongs to the Pelham family, but was granted some years ago to a lessee, for such a term of years as amounts nearly to a perpetuity. The rent is fifteen hundred pounds a-year, which at the time was a full consideration: it is now probably let for at least double that sum. The demise is supposed to be defective in powers to the lessee for granting renewals. The proprietor and the lessee disagreeing is highly injurious to the place, the destruction of which, in a few years, will leave little more than ruins to mark its site.

Pleased and gratified with the richness of surface—the romantic scenery, and stupendous grandeur of the country, little ills have had no power of disconcerting either my companion or myself; but Castle Isle is so repulsive to every sense,

that it cannot be recollected but with feelings of the most unpleasant nature ; and to complete our disgust, we were most grossly imposed on, while the landlord had the effrontery to declare he was the only honest and loyal man in the town. The written vouchers which he produced were not testimonials of the former, and I greatly doubt his being able to produce any evidence of the latter. The poor horses were worse off than ourselves, which made our abode still more intolerable. We shall start with the next light of day, impatient, not only for objects that await us, but to escape from ills hardly to be endured. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXXII.

Killarney, Sept. 10, 1819.

BEFORE the sun rose we were ready and impatient to quit Castle Isle. The distance to Killarney was a short eight miles. A new line of road, recently finished, in a great measure avoids the hills, by which route, however, fine views of the lake and its Alpine boundary are lost. We overtook a number of people on their way to the market at Killarney.

The prospect from the summit of the mountain, over which the old road passed, determined us to quit our carriage, and to perform the journey on foot, as the only means of obtaining a sight of the promised landscape.

Killarney has long ranked as one of the grandest and most distinguished objects in this interesting country. The beauties of its lakes are held as not inferior to any in Europe—the only rivals of our northern lakes in the British empire, and by most persons considered as superior to them in picturesque effect.

From the moment it was deemed practicable to extend our tour to this enchanting spot, I never ceased to anticipate the highest gratification from an examination of it, and much satisfaction in the opportunity of being able to determine, from the exercise of my own judgment, as to the sum of its pretensions and merits: but what is strange, and not easily to be accounted for, when the moment arrived for the accomplishment of objects on which I had dwelt with so much anxiety, I no longer felt the same zest or inclination. We quitted our horses at the rise of the hill, and walked up.

When the mind is deeply affected with the near approach of some momentous or interesting event, the pulsations of the heart become hurried and irregular—the tongue mute—conversation inconvenient; and, as solitude is preferable on such occasions—while my companion was engaged in chat with those going to market, I took the opportunity of proceeding alone. The ascent of two miles gave me ample leisure to commune with myself: I could not hide from my own heart, nor will I disguise it from you, how much I apprehended, lest I should now be compelled to acknowledge there was a spot on the surface of this habitable globe more enchanting than Windermere. The weakness

396 *Prospect of Killarney obscured by a Fog.*

inseparable from human existence often obliges even the greatest characters to blush at their own littlenesses! This acknowledged defect in our nature makes me less scrupulous in disclosing the secret cause of my perturbation:—I was provoked, and out of humour with myself! I wished to persuade myself I was disposed to be candid and to decide fairly, at the instant I was imagining the most specious arguments to justify my prepossessions. I was ashamed at being forced to believe myself incapable of being impartial—my reason disclaimed it; and, after a time, I discovered that a further abstraction of thought would be likely to deprive me of the promised enjoyment, to the fullest extent of that delight, which is ever attendant on the contemplation of the sublime works of nature, or of indulging in the enthusiasm so universally excited by views of a grand and beautiful description.

I had been so entirely absorbed in my own reveries, that I lost sight of all that was surrounding me, and had nearly reached the top of the hill, before I perceived a thick fog; which had risen from the plain, and had so rapidly ascended as to obscure the sun and all distant objects: by the time I had reached the summit, an impenetrable mist involved the

whole country. Under other circumstances this would have been the most cruel of disappointments; but on the present occasion, truth obliges me to confess, I felt relieved and comforted in being freed from an immediate decision. We were too well versed in these casualties of climate to wait for the precarious chance of the fog's dispersing; and in descending the hill we were now and then gratified with a momentary glimpse of the rugged tops of some of the stupendous mountains before us. Occasionally a peak was seen towering far above the fog, and magnified by the medium through which it was observed. The undefined outline of this imposing obscurity gave endless scope for the exercise of the imagination, leaving it to fancy to supply and fill up the chasm. I much question whether a more sublime and exalted impression was not made on our minds, by this partial and imperfect disclosure of beauties, than would have been produced had the whole landscape burst at once upon our sight. Rousseau, when speaking of the dress of the sex, observes, "that the most faultless and exquisite form loses nothing of its powers of fascination by being partially and indistinctly seen; the lover's fancy depicts what is hid from the eye, in beauties co-equal, if not superior to perfection itself."

The flat surface of the vale of Killarney is covered by a poor soil; the culture of it is very indifferent; and the whole is destitute of any beauty, if we except that which the hedges, planted with apple trees, afford.

Nothing worthy of remark occurred till we reached Lord Kenmare's upper park, two miles from the town, where the ground is diversified, and decorated with some stately timber.

Killarney is a respectable town, the principal street is well built, of considerable width and extent. The number of hotels and private lodgings indicate the influx of strangers, and afford an incontestable proof of the attractions in its neighbourhood. Our choice of an inn was decided by the notification of "good stabling with stalls:" the poor beasts had, however, to regret that these existed only on paper. A heavy rain had commenced before we reached the town; the sun, however, seemed disposed to contend for empire; and though appearances were unpromising, our hopes led us to entertain no doubt of fine weather after breakfast.

The report of a stag hunt at Glená, had caused all Lord Kenmare's boats to be engaged.

For the first time during our excursion, our good fortune had deserted us; but we soon had an offer of a small fishing boat, many of which are occasionally employed, when the others are not to be procured. Rates have been established for the hire of Lord Kenmare's boats, to prevent impositions. Double the expense of the boat however, is contrived to be charged, under the head of refreshments and liquor for the boatmen. Complaints are frequently made of extravagant demands on visitors to our northern lakes, but they bear no comparison to the exactions made here; yet it seems in some degree but reasonable that, in consideration of the resort here being confined to a few months, greater charges should be made than where the business is constant and regular.

Our anxiety for exploring the beauties of the lake superseded every other consideration; and we set out, regardless of the falling rain, and in the hope of sunshine.

Lord Kenmare's house is at the head of the principal street; it is a large pile of building, without any appearance, either in itself or situation, to recommend it. The grounds about it are confined, and skirted by a considerable tract of bog.

Ross Castle, about a mile and a half from the town, is the usual place of embarkation—our boat was stationed a little lower down, opposite to Cherry Island. The mist was still dense, obscuring every object, save those in our immediate neighbourhood. In the centre of the small bay where we embarked, a singularly beautiful rock rises abruptly to a considerable height above the water, and is designated O'Donoghue's Prison. The bay is formed by Cherry Island to the north, which is well wooded, though containing but a few acres; Ross and Innisfallen to the south. Cherry Island is of some length, but very narrow—the boldness of the rocks on the shores of the several islands contributes, in a high degree, to the scenery of the lake.

Although the violence of the wind had abated, yet a great swell on the water continued, and it was with some difficulty we reached the outer point of Innisfallen; where, in spite of the badness of the day, we became delighted with the half clouded rocky shore, and the indistinct masses of wood. From this point we had to cross the lake, which is here computed at two Irish miles. Before we had, however, proceeded a hundred yards, we were completely enveloped in fog; which continued

to obscure all our prospects, until we had nearly approached the opposite side, when a sudden burst of sunshine pierced the gloom, and instantaneously "the curtain of heaven drew up," and exhibited Glená, to our admiration, in all its majestic grandeur. This gleam of light falling exclusively on the mountain, while all else remained in obscurity, added a splendid solemnity to its appearance. Before us was Glená, single and alone, clothed with umbrageous wood from its base to a considerable elevation; while its upper regions and lofty summit, robed with rich purple heath, augmented the fascination by the contrasted colouring of these covering mantles. Here sat the smile of beauty, there stood the frown of majesty, contending for superiority, and disputing which should decide the appropriate character of the mountain. The deep tints of the purple heath were momentarily dimmed by light masses of fog, passing rapidly over its summit, or along its side at different heights; conspiring in a singular manner, by the alternate light and shade, to beautify the view. The sight was so novel and extraordinary as to border on enchantment, while the fear of its closing every instant heightened the admiration of the moment. Nothing could have been devised or wished for, to make the im-

pression stronger; in a few minutes the fog again interposed—the sublimity of the scene faded away, and left us in doubt, whether what we had seen was real, or only an airy dream of the imagination. So transient was the view—so powerful the effect, that fancy was left to the full exercise of all her empire. We were not, however, long suffered to enjoy the delusion created by this sudden and irresistible incitement of feeling. The rain began to fall in torrents, and obliged us, in despair of making any further progress, to take shelter in the cottage at the foot of Glená.

The hunting party had here been assembled since nine in the morning, and, having exhausted their store of patience, were embarking when we landed. We found a comfortable room with a good fire, and we received much civility from the keeper. Unwilling to relinquish all hope of the rain ceasing, our first care was to get our clothes dried. After some time, one of the parties by whom the room had been previously engaged returned; and, on our preparing to quit it, Mr. O'Connell, who was one of the company, understanding we were English travellers, most politely and hospitably invited us to join them. The excessive good humour and gaiety which now prevailed soon

obliterated the chagrin which our disappointment had occasioned.

In the course of the afternoon, we got from an eminence a transient view of the opposite shores of the lake, and some parts of the mountain scenery; what we saw, however, did not qualify us to form any opinion, or to decide on the pretensions of the scenery, yet it was sufficient to satisfy us that it possessed great sublimity. The vapors arising from the boggy grounds which surround Killarney presented numerous appearances resembling minor rainbows.

A most important part of a repast here is salmon, taken immediately from the lake, and broiled on boughs of the arbutus, which are considered to add highly to its flavor.

A frank and unconstrained discussion, which our inquiries occasioned, led us to take "no note of time;" it was late in the evening before we left the cottage. The night was too dark to allow of our distinguishing any of the objects around us, though we had a tolerably fair moment for returning.

The weather here had of late been so un-

certain that several parties had been waiting a week for a fair day ; our prospect for the morrow was considered almost as hopeless ; which, with our time being so circumscribed as to allow us only another day to explore objects that would fully and delightfully occupy many, did leisure depend on will, produced us inexpressible regret. If our good fortune should yet attend us in the morning, and the sun should shine, my only unpleasant reflection will be that of your absence ; but as far as I can compensate such a loss, I shall joyfully do it, by giving you a faithful detail of every impression I may receive from the contemplation of this wonderful scenery.

I am already convinced that the pre-eminent features of Killarney are so opposite and distinct from those of our lakes, that, were the picturesque to be contested, the decision would be independent of comparative merits ; and would arise out of the pre-conceived notions in the party, in favor of the sublimity and grandeur, or of the beautiful and smiling works of nature ! The points of perfection in either are so entirely dissimilar, that no possibility exists of bringing them fairly into comparison, or of weighing them in the scale of competition against each other. The fascinations of a

Claude differ so materially, and form such a contrast to the wild romantic conceptions of a Salvator Rosa, that those who prefer the charms of the former to that of the latter, or *vice versa*, must be decided by the influence of a pre-conceived intellectual discernment. The sublime gives birth to grand, to lofty ideas, whilst beauty produces less elevated, though not less pleasing sensations. A well-performed tragedy creates more interest, and exercises more powerful influence over the mind, than an equally well-acted comedy; the effects of the one is to exhaust our feelings, whilst that of the other is to delight them. As a landscape for casual contemplation, I should prefer Killarney; as a permanent residence, I should choose Windermere.

I do not know whether my reasoning and reflections will comport with the view you may take of the subject; they have, however, had the good effect of making peace with myself, and I should hope their prolixity will not disturb that of yours. Adieu. This is the first day we have had cause to complain of the weather, and this is being remarkably fortunate. Yours.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXXIII.

Killarney, Sept. 11, 1813.

THE night was thoroughly tempestuous, and so the weather continued till near seven this morning, when the wind changed, and shortly afterwards it became unexpectedly fine. The sun bursting forth rapidly dispersed the fog; we lost no time in setting forward, purposing to compass in one day what usually occupies several.

We embarked at the same spot as on the day before. The lofty summit of Glená and the surrounding mountains were finely illuminated. The rapidity of the fleeting clouds produced a magic combination of light and shade, which constitutes one of the principal charms of Alpine scenery. The lake and its islands could not have been seen at a more happy moment: the agitation of the water still continued with violence to break on the shore in waves, whose dashing frothy spray increased the magnificent effect by producing a striking contrast with the

rich and peaceful foliage impending over the rocks, which seemed to smile at the impotent rage of the foaming billows.

The bay formed by Cherry Isle, Ross, and Innisfallen, the centre of which is occupied by O'Donoghue's prison, is highly picturesque. On reaching the southern point of Innisfallen, the whole range of the lake, computed at six miles in length and three in breadth, was fully open to our view. Innisfallen is the largest, best wooded, and most interesting of all the islands; and the circuit of its shores, which are bold and rocky, are reported to include seventeen acres.

The swell was yet so great that the waves frequently broke over our boat, and it was with much difficulty we crossed the lake to the opposite shore.

Glená has a decided pre-eminence in this sublime picture; on the left is Tommes Mountain, and beyond it is the Alpine chain extending towards Dingle and Bantry Bay. To the right Mangerton, Turk's Mountain, Glenflesh, and the Paps. Immensity of magnitude, combined with diversity of outline and the richest tints of colouring, present to the power

of beholding a prospect of infinite sublimity and magnificence. This view possesses also many beautiful features ; but these are subordinates, and are lost in their association with objects of such superior interest and attraction.

From Glená cottage, situated at the bottom of the bay, to the promontory opposite to Darby's Garden, the distance exceeds a mile ; thence to Benson's Point is fully three. The whole of this, constituting the base of Glená, is richly clothed with oak woods to a considerable height ; the lower parts of the thickets are interspersed with the arbutus, whose verdant glossy leaves have a pleasing effect. The captivating smoothness of surface, and the rotundity of the summit of Glená, are very impressive. The most splendid effects are produced by the deep purple tint of the heath, now in full bloom, which completely envelops its broad extensive sides and its top ; its base is washed by a noble expanse of water, whose glossy surface, in its peaceful moments, seems as if designed by nature as a mirror to reflect and double the exalted beauties of Glená. Every feeling of admiration is called forth, and becomes interested by the sublimity of these imposing objects.

The northern shore is of a quite different character. The flatness of the intervening country, between the lake and the opposite hills, in which Dingy Bog occupies so considerable space, is too tame, and by no means corresponds with the beauties of Glená.

Ross Castle, the island, and the rocks which surround it, possess many charming objects, which could not fail of pleasing under other circumstances; but the eye rests not, until it returns again to Glená. Unity of colour increases the power of vision, concentrating the whole field into one focus. I had once before been struck with the sublime effect of this unity of colour, in the oak wood on the side of the hill at Margham; I now again felt all its magic.

It was with great difficulty we could tear ourselves away from this alluring station, though we were assured there were others awaiting our inspection of far greater interest, which, at the instant, to us, appeared incredible.

On leaving this enchanting spot, we made for Turk's Lake. Although there is a majestic appearance in the mountain which bears its

name, yet there is a coldness in the margin of the lake, which is repulsive.

The right-lined extensive fir plantations, evidently the trim designs of art, give a formality, and harmonize not with the varied irregular unstudied works of nature in their vicinage; the first view satisfied our curiosity, and we proceeded direct to Dennis Isle.

On our arrival there, we had the mortification of learning, that in consequence of the rise in the water, by the rain of the preceding night, the chances were much against our getting through the Old Wear Bridge. To this circumstance the boatmen had not adverted, or had purposely omitted providing the necessary length of towing-rope: there appeared to be neither remedy, nor resource; and the day was too far spent to attempt the other passage. We found so strong a current against us, that it was with great difficulty we passed Dennis Isle, and got landed on the opposite shore. Here our boatmen stripped, preparatory to dragging the boat against the stream, which in floods is an operation attended with some danger; with great labor the men succeeded in getting it to the bridge, and we began to entertain sanguine hopes of surmounting the difficulty. I

had quitted them but a few minutes, when I heard a cry of Murder! Murder! I hastened back to the spot, and had the mortification of seeing our boat swept down the stream with incredible velocity, and soon carried out of my sight. The frantic actions and expressions of the boatmen were truly tragi-comic. The loss of the boat unfortunately involved the loss of their clothes also; in feeling for them, we forgot ourselves—cut off from all means of reaching Dennis Island, we were ignorant of any quarter whence we could hope relief; and the men were so confounded, we could gain no information from them as to what was best to be done. We did not, however, continue long in this perplexity, before we were relieved from our embarrassment by the arrival of Mr. Herbert's keeper, who had followed us to the island in a small boat, and had witnessed our disaster. He brought us also the agreeable intelligence that our boat was safe. Our first care was to reclothe and refresh our boatmen—this accomplished, they were disposed for an immediate return; we by no means concurred in their wishes; but to attempt the Wear again was hopeless. During the absence of the men, I was employed in examining the shore and passage to the bridge. From a point in the river to which the small boat could easily

get, it was not above fifty yards to the other side of the fall—our united strength seemed equal to carrying the boat over the rocks—the men at first treated the suggestion as a joke, but finding that I was determined, at length assented, though evidently without any hope of success. At the moment we were about to commence our undertaking, a market boat arrived from Killarney; the parties in which, with the most hearty good-will, offered their service; and with this fortunate acquisition of strength, we accomplished our object with no great difficulty. A joke never fails of producing good humour—the attempt struck our assistants as being whimsical, which alone would have ensured their services, had their natural good temper taken no share in our relief. There is ever to be found a kind-heartedness in the Irish, that predisposes them to be ready sharers in any adventure, although the event be doubtful. Our delight, in which all present partook, on seeing our boat afloat on the other side was unbounded. This passage, at all times, is an awkward business, and particularly so when ladies are of the party: fifty pounds expended in blasting the rocks would enable the boats to be taken round the bridge, on wheels, without difficulty or delay; I heartily wish our disaster, and the means

resorted to, may furnish some suggestion for the purpose ; as in wet seasons, which frequently occur, there can be no access to the upper lake, and many parties must be deprived of seeing the most interesting part of the whole.

As we were about to set off, an eight-oared barge of Lord Kenmare's arrived, with every aid for effecting the passage, which took up above an hour, and was not unattended with some risk to the men. The difficulties we had encountered, as is usual, enhanced the value of the promised pleasure, and never were the expectations of mortals higher raised or more enthusiastically felt. We had to pass for two miles up a narrow rapid river, whose rushy sides, with the flat, boggy ground between the mountains, were by no means consonant to the high ideas we had formed of the approach to the upper lake.—As a foil, however, nothing of contrast could be more effectually disposed.

Eagle's Nest first arrests the attention, and may be considered as the guardian genius of the upper lake—hence commences the fairy ground. Eagle's Crag is a perpendicular pyramidal rock, rising from a narrow base to

the height of five hundred yards. Its face may be considered as smooth, though occasionally interrupted and diversified, by tufts of moss, and of brush wood, which heighten its picturesque appearance, springing from the fissures of its surface. Parties generally fire a cannon against the face of the crag; the echo thus produced is spoken of as having a most wonderful effect. The report is said to reverberate from point to point, and to make the whole circuit of the upper lake before the sound of it escapes, and that sullen silence resumes its wonted empire.

The repeated and almost daily visits of strangers at its base, have banished its ancient inhabitants; yet are eagles sometimes seen towering in the upper regions, and holding possession with the red deer, as tenants in common of its extensive and elevated territory.

A mile further is Colman's Eye: here the river, having another rapid fall, alters its direction; but when this difficulty is passed, it resumes its former course, and introduces spectators at once to the entrance of the upper lake. An amphitheatre of stupendous mountains bursting instantly on the sight surprises

—I might add, appals the senses, by their awful, their imposing appearance. The ascent of the mountains is so great and abrupt, that the tops only of those most distant are discerned.

The length of the upper lake is estimated at two miles—its breadth at one. A considerable portion of this space is occupied by islands, whose rocky, rugged shores partake of the general character. The arbutus pending over the rocks alone appears gay, where every thing else is melancholy.

Our course was directed for Ronnayson's Island, nearly in the centre of the lake, to obtain an elevated situation for commanding a full view of the mountains. The way which leads to the top of the rock is by a path cut through the wood, which excludes every prospect until the summit is gained.

Highly as were our expectations raised, the reality mocked all the creative power which fancy could supply. At once the whole sublimity of the scene was disclosed to our wondering imagination! In silent astonishment I gazed for a length of time.—The magnificent grandeur of the whole was too imposing to be

comprehensible—it was overpowering! Figure to yourself the towering mass rising almost perpendicularly from its base to an elevation of three thousand six hundred and ninety-five feet, overshadowing the translucent waters of the lake. Such is the height of M'Gilly Cuddy's Reeks, one of the most elevated mountains in Ireland, whose line of summit is so indented, as to render it difficult on which point to fix as that most entitled to pre-eminence. This mountain is accompanied by many others, little inferior in loftiness, and magnitude. One vast uninterrupted expanse of purple heath overspreads the upper regions, while the base is luxuriantly fringed with the evergreen arbutus, and other trees.

The sun, which shone resplendently on our arrival at Ronnayson's Island, was but little above the horizon of the mountain: his decline irradiated the whole expanse of heath as with a sheet of burnished gold; whilst a superadded brightness illuminated all its prominent parts. Profusely grand was this luxurious moment—the next, the refulgent orb sank behind the elevated mass. This was not foreseen, and produced a greater effect than if it had been anticipated—for it seemed the operation of enchantment

Dark, deep, and broadly-expanded shades, assuming the sable guise of night, now chilled that surface which instantly before had blazed with golden streams of warmth. The dazzled eye, contracted by the luminous effect of the sun, was, on its disappearance, though dilated, dimmed—the darkened tints which were thrown upon the lake operated an instantaneous transition of feeling—the sublimity of the scene had reached an acmé of gratification, in which we could no longer indulge—the excess of delight became a source of melancholy—and while a tributary tear involuntarily moistened the eye, as a grateful acknowledgment for the feast in which it had luxuriated, the relief of intellectual obligations could only be expressed by an effusion of deep-drawn sighs ; and memory will cease to exercise her functions, ere the impression is forgotten or recalled, without a repetition of the even painful exuberance of pleasure that vision had occasioned.

When the strong excitement created by this enchanting scene had so far subsided as to permit the consideration of minor objects, I discovered a few insulated habitations, the modest simplicity of which seemed to indicate the desire of eluding observation, while the character they assumed, by an easy transition,

associated itself with sorrow and a solicitude to shun the haunts of man! Such abodes are happily adapted to the genius of a spot so far removed from the intercourse of the world; yet a total want of human habitations would have abstracted from the general interest; as Man is still the first and most interesting object.

The contemplation of the sublime and grand in nature is always associated with meditative thought; and hence the cast of melancholy arises, which is the principal cause of much of its effect on the mind.

In tracing the margin of the lake up to its head, the sight of an unmeaning tower—the absurdity of which was made more glaring by its being white-washed—called forth the uncontrollable sense of disapprobation and disgust—according with no object in its neighbourhood—at variance with every other surrounding it—interrupting the general keeping of the whole landscape—it is a gross violation of taste, and an obtrusive monument of useless expense.

It was with no small portion of regret that we learnt, several grants had been recently made of land for the site of cottages, which

were shortly expected to be erected. Seclusion and melancholy here hold their sacred vigils, and form the fascinating character of this delicious spot; whatever interferes with their sombre rites will effectually destroy its magic powers. I heartily wish it may not become the abode of fortune's favorites; but if this be its destiny, may the goddess of taste inspire them with veneration and respect for the matchless beauties of this favored scene, and teach, that where nature has been so lavish of her sumptuous favors, art can have nothing to supply.

The southern boundary is so very inferior to the western, that a single look sufficed, and left so imperfect an impression, that as to any description of it, I feel to be indisposed and unequal.

The Alpine scenery, of which M'Gilly Cuddy's Reeks form the principal feature, leaves to the imagination no power of adding an iota to its towering magnitude—variety of outline, and richness of colouring, combining in one magnificent subject all the mountain enchantments of nature. The faculty of seeing excites feelings which are instantly transmitted to the heart by every avenue that leads to it,

where the intensity of admiration may create emotions of a more painful than pleasurable description.

Mount Blanc and its fellow Alps, though in height and magnitude infinitely surpassing M'Gilly Cuddy's Reeks, are, in sublimity, greatly inferior. This superiority, I conceive to arise out of the magic powers of light and shade. The brilliancy of Mount Blanc, by the refraction of the rays of light from its snow-clad silvery sides, is ever bedecked in smiling gaiety ; while the dark solemn and rich tints of purple heath crown M'Gilly Cuddy's Reeks with deep gloomy melancholy. They might not inappropriately be compared to the courts of tragedy and comedy. Here Melpomene might erect her throne, and find a superlative stage for the exhaustion of all human sympathies in tales of woe—while her laughing sister would fly to Mount Blanc, or revel in the softer beauties of Windermere, and captivate her votaries without diminishing their powers of enjoyment, or producing satiety.

It was impossible to quit this scene without extreme regret : to have thought I was bidding it adieu for ever would have been extremely painful ; I will cherish the fond hope of once

again indulging my visual powers with a repetition of its fascinations.

We had still much of the lower lake to see, which, though reluctantly, compelled us to hasten our departure.

The grandeur of the mountain's shadows augmented, for a moment, the melancholy influence the whole had inspired. In bidding adieu, as this imposing scene closed on us, I can sacredly aver no time will ever efface, or even diminish, my profound admiration of its sublimity.

Glená, the before admired Glená, has certainly much to attract, but can enter into no competition with the enchantments of the upper lake; had we failed in seeing it, we could have formed no idea of the sublime character of Killarney.

Limited as has been our survey, and transient as has been our view, I have no hesitation in adding my testimony, as far as it may be deemed of moment, by pronouncing, that fame, in all she has proclaimed of Killarney, has not exceeded the sober bounds of truth.

The current carried us rapidly back. We landed above the bridge to lighten the boat. The shoot through the arch appeared alarming, though attended with little danger.

There are some few habitations scattered around the lake, and on part of the adjacent mountains to the south. From the sample which we saw of the inhabitants, we should be disposed to judge most favorably of them. During the summer, what trifles they have, they bring to the market of Killarney.

When we got back to Turk's Lake, we found the sun some distance from the horizon of the lower world. Our second view did not induce an alteration in my first opinion. The lower lake was perfectly tranquil, which warmed the vale, and gave interest to those parts which were in cultivation. We returned through the archipelago of islands and rocks by Mucross, and considered this part of the lake to be very picturesque. On one of the islands we saw the largest arbutus now remaining; the trunk is about eight feet in girth for a few feet above the ground, where it divides into several stems; each of which had a bushy head, but otherwise bare of leaves. The tree is certainly curious,

but without any pretensions to beauty, the arbutus being only handsome as a shrub.

Near Ross Island is a remarkable flat stone of great size, called O'Donoghue's table. The numerous traditions connected with objects in different parts of the lake concerning O'Donoghue, convey a very lofty idea of the character and prowess of this chieftain. The concluding act of his life was well calculated to endear his memory to the Irish nation. When it became impossible longer to defend Ross Castle, O'Donoghue, seeing all hope of maintaining the independence of his country at an end—any alternative for himself but death, or suing for mercy to the conqueror—indignantly mounted the ramparts of his castle, and with folded arms, in the sight of his own and his country's enemies, precipitated himself into the lake. The heroism of his last moments called forth the admiration of those who had stigmatised him as a barbarian. The friends of liberty, adverting to the transactions of that period, will contemplate the deed through a more exalted medium. Long after the event, and indeed till within a few years, the patriot is reported to have been seen on the lake, mounted on a white charger. Of late he has deserted the theatre of his former exploits. The incredulous endeavour to ac-

count for his disappearance thus. Whilst the venerable oak tenanted the sides of Glená, the beams of the moon were reflected from a small stream which descended into the lake, but which is now completely skreened by brush-wood. Be this as it may—the ghost has vanished, and the timid no longer suffer alarm.

Mucross Abbey has the reputation of being a fine Gothic ruin, and the grounds about it very beautiful. This, as well as a visit to the Devil's Punch-bowl, and to the grand Alpine chain that forms the southern boundary of the island, with other objects of great curiosity in Ireland, must on the present occasion be relinquished. We landed at Ross Castle, and regained Killarney soon after it was dark.

A detail of all the beauties of this interesting spot would fill a volume. Had my powers of description been equal to my admiration of the beautiful and sublime features of nature, which my eye has this day surveyed, you would not have hesitated to concur with me, that Killarney has no equal. I feel a pleasure at parting, by indulging a hope I may at no distant period pay this delightful spot a second visit—at present so many objects are in view—so many concerns obtrude, that I am not in a fit

state of mind to devote myself, and be so abstracted, as it is requisite to partake the full enjoyment of its fascinations.

It is for you to decide how far the prepossessions in favor of home, with which I ascended the mountains on leaving Castle Isle, have disqualified me from dealing candidly with Killarney. Adieu.

J. C. C.

LETTER XXXIV.

Macroom, Sept. 13, 1813.

WE had to wait in the street this morning a full hour before the ostler could be roused from his bed, and our horses obtained. To what will not habit reconcile us? We had now acquired by experience such knowledge of the want of order and punctuality at Irish inns, that we endured the delay with the most edifying patience; by-the-by, this virtue is no where exposed to severer trials than at Killarney. The weather puts it often to comfortless experiments, while some forbearance is requisite to submit, without loss of temper, to the general conspiracy to rob and plunder. The impositions, though glaring, cannot well be avoided; and as few visitors are expected to return, they are practised on with impunity.

There is still much oak in the neighbourhood of Killarney. The devastation, unfortunately, has been made on the islands, and the sides of Glená, where it was most ornamental,

and where its loss is consequently the greatest. The waste, however, is fast recruiting, and the injury is daily less perceptible, by the rapid growth of the wood.

The sun arose this morning in all its splendor ; I beheld its first beams irradiate the brow of Glená.

The smile it provoked, like that assumed by hopeless desperation, exposed the melancholy it sought to conceal. Not all the sun's resplendent rays could enliven the indelible character of pensive gloominess attached to this enchanting spot, the magnificence of whose features were deeply imprinted on my mind ; and had not a cherished hope of revisiting Killarney ere long, with greater leisure and more capacity of thought for enjoying its sublime beauties, supported my spirits, I could not with any comfort have been reconciled to our immediate departure.

M'Gilly Cuddy's Reeks, and Mangerton, seemed to rise in height in proportion as our distance from them became increased. The altitude of Mount Blanc surprised me more from the summit of Montanvert than from the valley of Chamouni.

delightful, though transient view has
sufficient to make us truly sensible of
in being precluded from a more in-
imate acquaintance with the indescribable beau-
ties of this romantic region. Previous to my
visit to Killarney, Ben-lomond stood in my opi-
on unrivalled, as the most sublime object
within my knowledge. I saw the sun rise upon
some years ago, in a fine autumnal morning,
from the head of the lake, and then thought
it the grandest sight I ever beheld. In my
estimation now, I can only reckon the Scot-
tish mountain as second to M'Gilly Cuddy's
Reeks.

The enchantments of Killarney, however,
have not diminished my admiration for our
northern scenery; the pretensions of each are
so completely opposite, that no merited praise
bestowed on Killarney can detract from Winder-
mere; and though competitors for picturesque
effect, they may for ever continue as friends, to
the gratification of those, whose perceptions are
capable of being charmed either by the assem-
blage of nature's most sublime, or her most
beautiful compositions!

At a short distance from Killarney we over-
took an Irish car, with a coffin fixed upon it;

escorted by two attendants mounted on the same horse; a style differing much from the usual custom of the country; on our passing, the riders inquired the hour, expecting, most probably, to be met by the friends of the deceased. There seems great predilection in this country for particular burial places; the poorest people are occasionally carried great distances for interment. Mucross Abbey is highly esteemed, and venerated for its sanctity, and many are brought from great distances to be there deposited.

Twelve miles from Killarney is the residence of a gentleman who appeared to be a most spirited and successful improver. Lime appears to be liberally applied in this neighbourhood; we saw one or two kilns on a good construction. Most of the country to Mill-street is poorly cultivated; the soil is light, and the crops appear to be very different. On approaching Mill-street there is a little planting, which greatly embellishes the spot, and had a very pleasing effect after the naked country through which we had passed.

A short distance from Mill-street we were met by a considerable cavalcade attending a funeral from Kinsale. The hearse differed in



for this woman's sufferings, and a wish for the power of alleviating them, yet when undeceived, I was as sorry to find they were not real.

The Welsh pay the most respect of any people in the empire to the memory of departed friends; they annually dress up and decorate the graves of the deceased, and visit them on the anniversary of the day on which the soul fled from earth, strewing flowers, and calling to remembrance the most endearing and interesting circumstances relative to those whom they have loved, and whose loss in unaffected plaints they mourn. I never visited a church-yard in Wales without feeling a pleasurable melancholy, free from the disgust and horror which the mansions of the dead, in most other places, are calculated to inspire. Little can be offered in favor of our English church-yards, and still less of those observed in this country. The neglect here is really scandalous, and a manifest reproach to the responsible parties. Can the clergyman's horse or cow be seen scrambling over, and trampling down, the graves which cover the bosoms of our fellow-creatures, for the purpose of gathering a scanty repast, without calling forth sensations repulsive to our feelings of humanity? It is a practice as revolting to

every sense of propriety in the living, as it is a desertion of duty and want of respect to the dead.

It was the fair day at Mill-street, which necessarily thronged it with people and cattle. We had been much amused on seeing several instances of two or three men with monstrous cudgels, sweating under the cumbrous trusties, or great coats, to get the fair a couple of lean sheep or a couple of which would, perhaps, not cover their expenses. The condition of the stock exposed for sale corresponded with the miserable culture of the country. We met a military butcher conveying to slaughter, what he called, "a fat mutton;" in any other place his compliment on the condition of the animal might have passed as a reproach, for the poor beast was but skin and bone.

We had ten miles to travel hither after breakfast, having then come sixteen from Killarney. Great improvements have been made, and are now making, on all this line of road, which will considerably shorten the distance.

The country to Macroom is very hilly; at two miles from the town we began to descend,

and, as we reached a lower level, the valley became richer in soil, and better attended to in point of cultivation. Many of the cabins had gardens attached to them, and the children were employed in gathering from the road the fallen manure; an indication of industry we had not before seen, and which evidently bespoke a desire for improvement.

The general state of things seemed to be improving on us: a great many neat cottages were observed at the entrance of the town; and, being market-day, numbers of people, decently dressed, were met on their return home.

Macroom is a place of some extent, and very tolerably built. It was late before we arrived: yet numbers of persons were still in the town, and the business of the market did not seem to be finished. As we entered we were shocked at the sight of several miserable objects, who were planted in different parts of the streets, intercepting our progress and presenting a most melancholy picture of the poverty under which the lower classes existed. One beggar on the bridge had provided himself with a large bundle of fern, to protect him against the influence of the wind, which was very turbulent in that situation: the trade is well understood in Ire-

land, and begging is practised with consummate address and dexterity.

Our landlord was an obliging intelligent man, and did not think that due attention to his business, and civil treatment of his guests, degraded his consequence. From him we learned that apprehensions were entertained of a battle. The feuds between parish and parish, or barony and barony, were formerly carried to so great a height as to endanger the public peace in all popular assemblies. Our landlord reported that he had frequently seen lives lost in these disgraceful broils; but for the credit of the country they were at present less frequent, and that a general fight had lately seldom happened. Our room commanded a view of the market place. The disposition to tumult was evident: several commencements of affrays were prudently reconciled by the good women rushing in between the combatants. For upwards of an hour the flame of discord threatened to burst forth among several parties, when fortunately the falling of a heavy shower dispersed the crowd, and was the means of restoring peace and tranquillity. It would be a happy circumstance if the Irish could be prevailed on to discontinue the fashion of the shillala: the weight and size of these sticks, with which all are armed, make it a

matter of surprise that more serious consequences do not arise from their habitual ferocity in the use of them on settling their disputes.

Macroon has a woollen manufactory, and appears to be thriving: a great number of neat and comfortable houses have lately been built.

Our resting place is one of the best regulated inns, in every respect, with which we had met.

The town is full of military, who are to march at two o'clock in the morning: the noise and bustle will be so great, that after that time it will be in vain to hope for rest; we shall, however, benefit in some respects by the disturbance, as it will prevent delays here, and forward our arrival at Cork, from which place you will hear from me again—till then, adieu.

J. C. C.

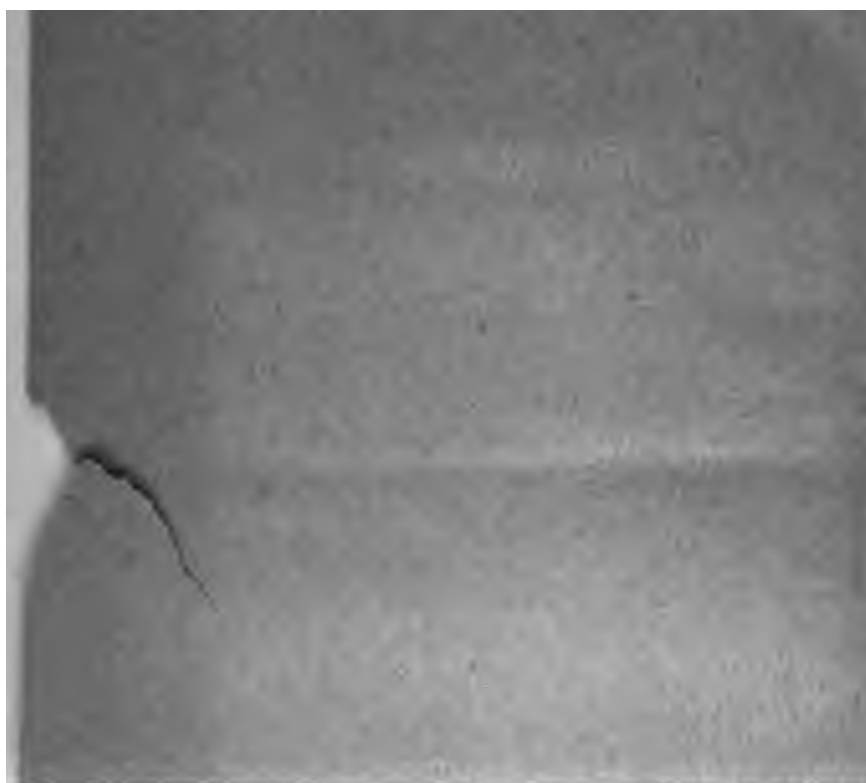
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